



BUILD YOUR CAREER STORY

Transforming your background from a list of jobs into a narrative of inevitable success.

Before you optimize keywords or practice an interview answer, you must define the narrative.

IF YOU DON'T PROVIDE THE STORY, THEY INVENT ONE

THE CHRONOLOGY TRAP VS. THE NARRATIVE SHIFT

First Name
Last Name

EXPERIENCE

JOB 1
Jan 2011 – Dec 2015

-
-
-

JOB 2
Jan 2012 – Sep 2017

-
-
-

JOB 3
Jan 2017 – Dec 2019

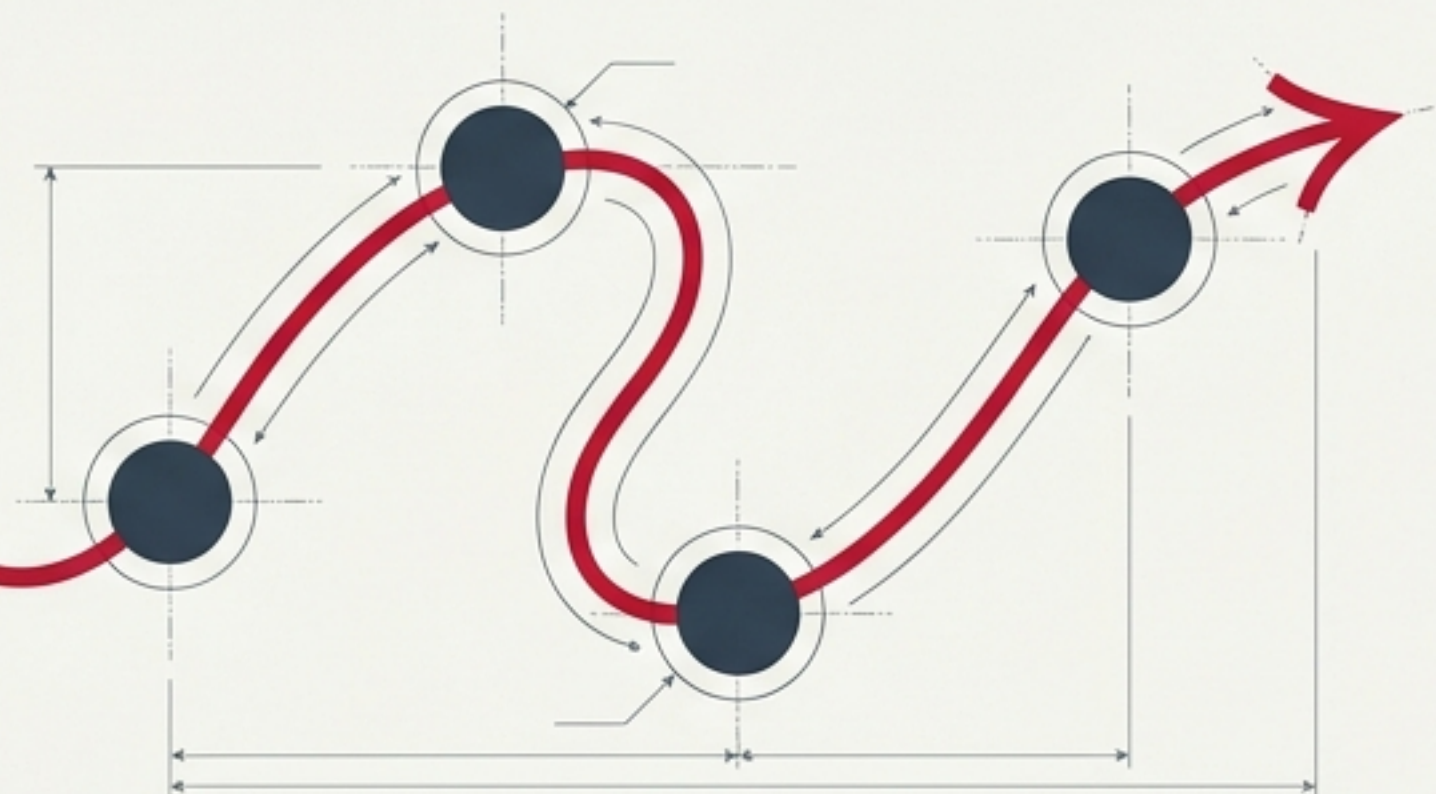
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EDUCATION
Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration
University of California, Los Angeles

SKILLS
• Microsoft Office • Project Management • Communication

THE CHRONOLOGY TRAP

Most candidates list positions chronologically. This forces the hiring manager to do the mental work of connecting the dots. When they can't, they see risk.



THE NARRATIVE SHIFT

If your career looks random, people assume it IS random. Your job is to make the logic visible. We move from "What I did" to "Why it matters."



NARRATIVE BEATS CHRONOLOGY

Humans are wired for stories, not bullet points. Hiring managers are unconsciously trying to predict the future (Act 3) based on the past (Acts 1 & 2).

THE SAFETY EQUATION

A Random List of Jobs = Uncertainty (Risk)

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A Coherent Story = Safety (Predictability)

A good story signals that you are intentional, strategic, and predictable.

THE THREE-ACT CAREER ARCHITECTURE

Your career is not a timeline; it is a narrative arc.

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ACT 1: THE FOUNDATION

The Origin /
Inciting Incident

ACT 2: THE DEVELOPMENT

The Climb /
Skills Built

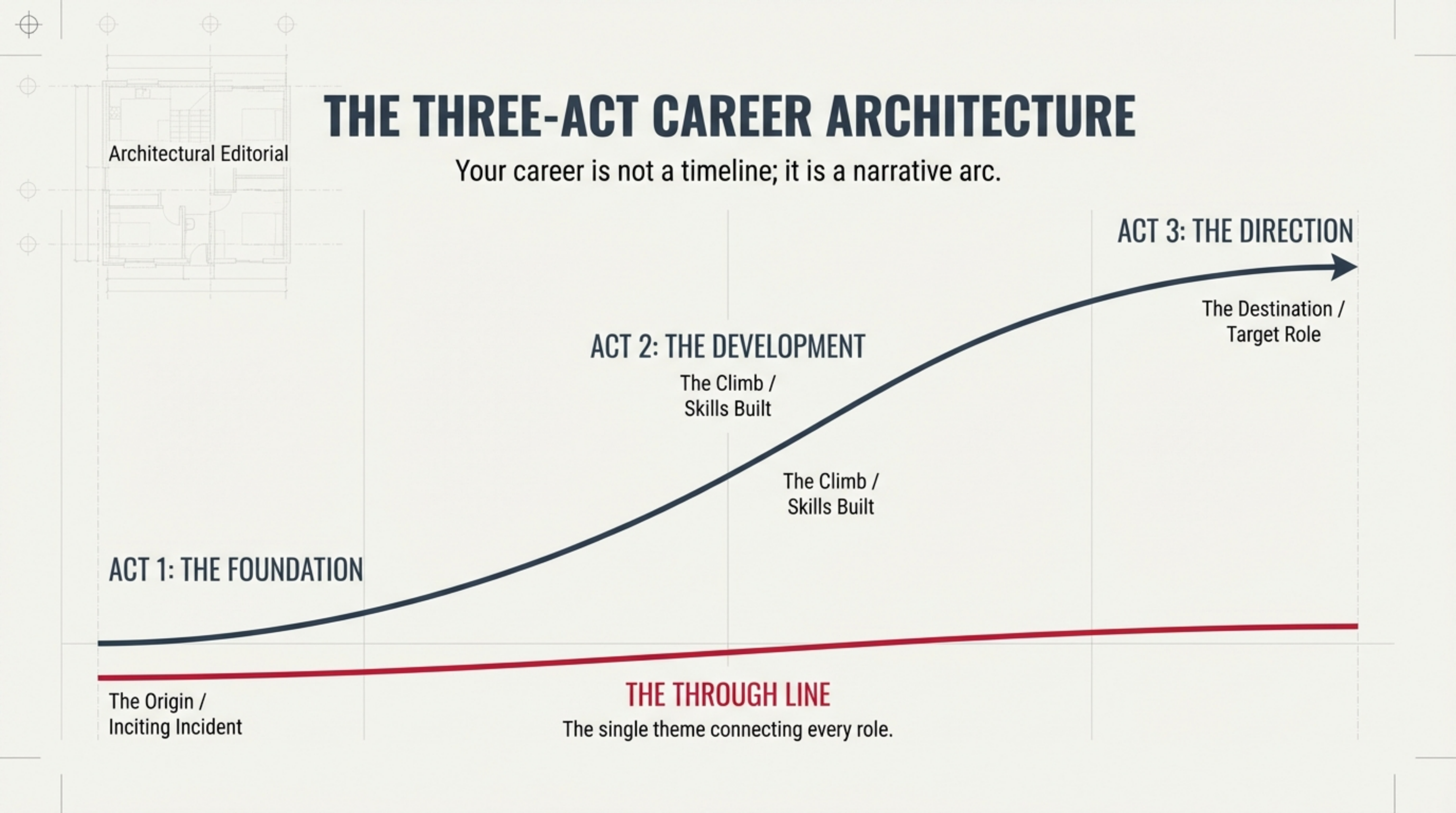
The Climb /
Skills Built

ACT 3: THE DIRECTION

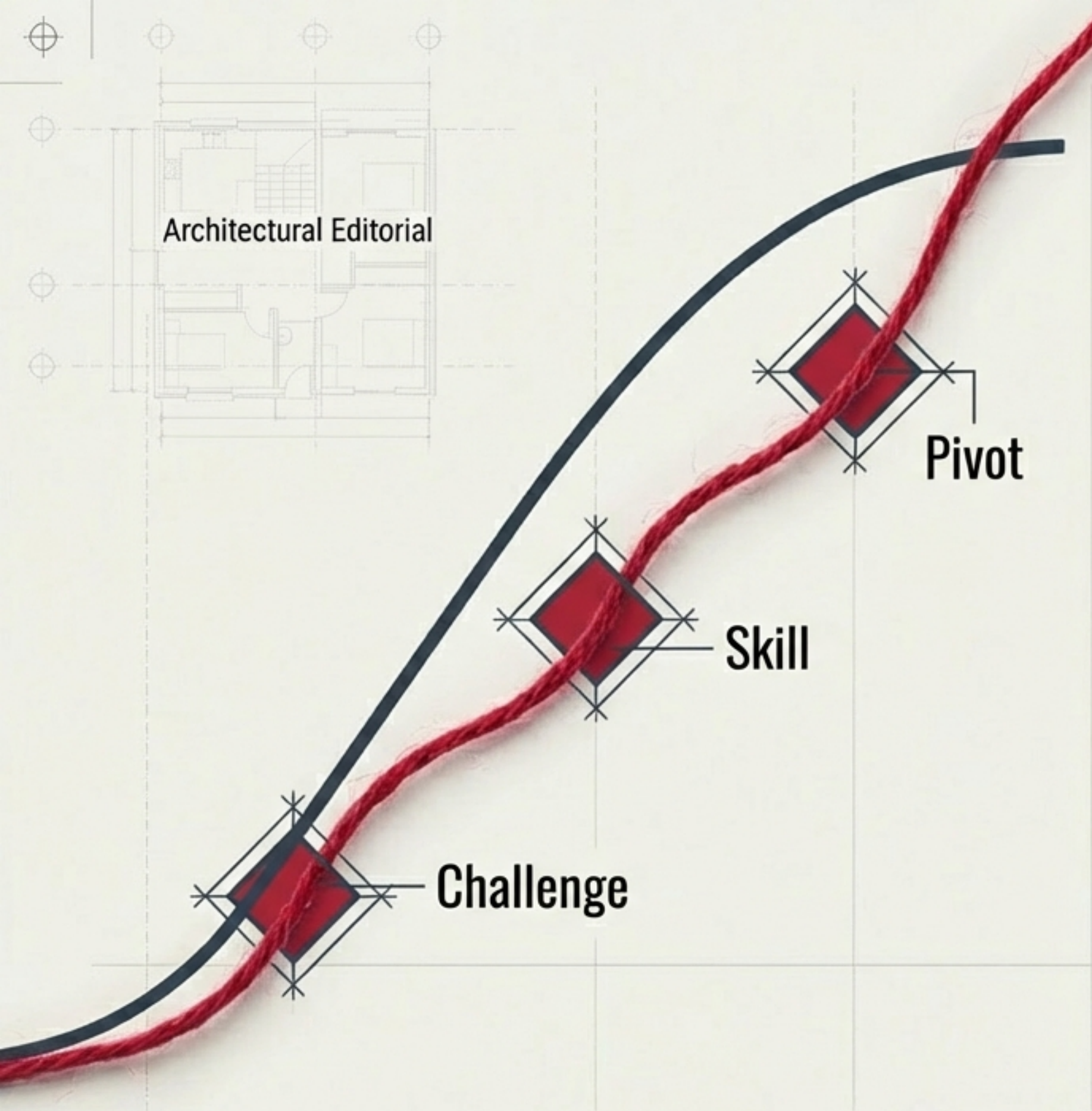
The Destination /
Target Role

THE THROUGH LINE

The single theme connecting every role.



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ACT 2: THE DEVELOPMENT

The Meat of the Story

This connects your start to your present. It is where you prove capacity for growth.

KEY ELEMENTS:

1. *Challenges*: What hard problems did you face? What a hard up did you face?
2. *Skills*: What capabilities did you build to solve them? What are did you build to solve: How are you different now?
3. *Growth*: How are you different now than when you started?



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ACT 3: THE DIRECTION

The Next Chapter

Where are you going? This is where you connect your past trajectory to the company's future needs.

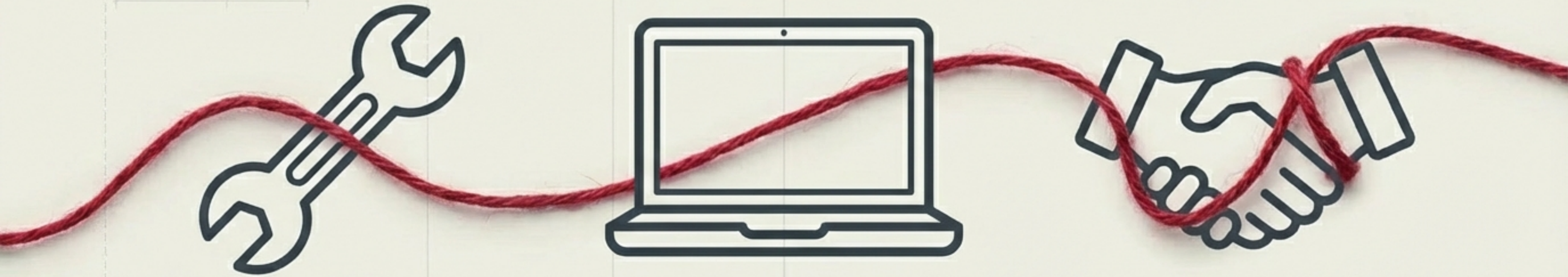
THE STRATEGIC LOGIC:

You aren't just looking for A job; you are looking for THIS job because it is the logical conclusion of Acts 1 and 2.

Why does this specific move make sense NOW?

THE THROUGH LINE IS YOUR SUPERPOWER

The single theme that connects every role, no matter how different they look on paper.

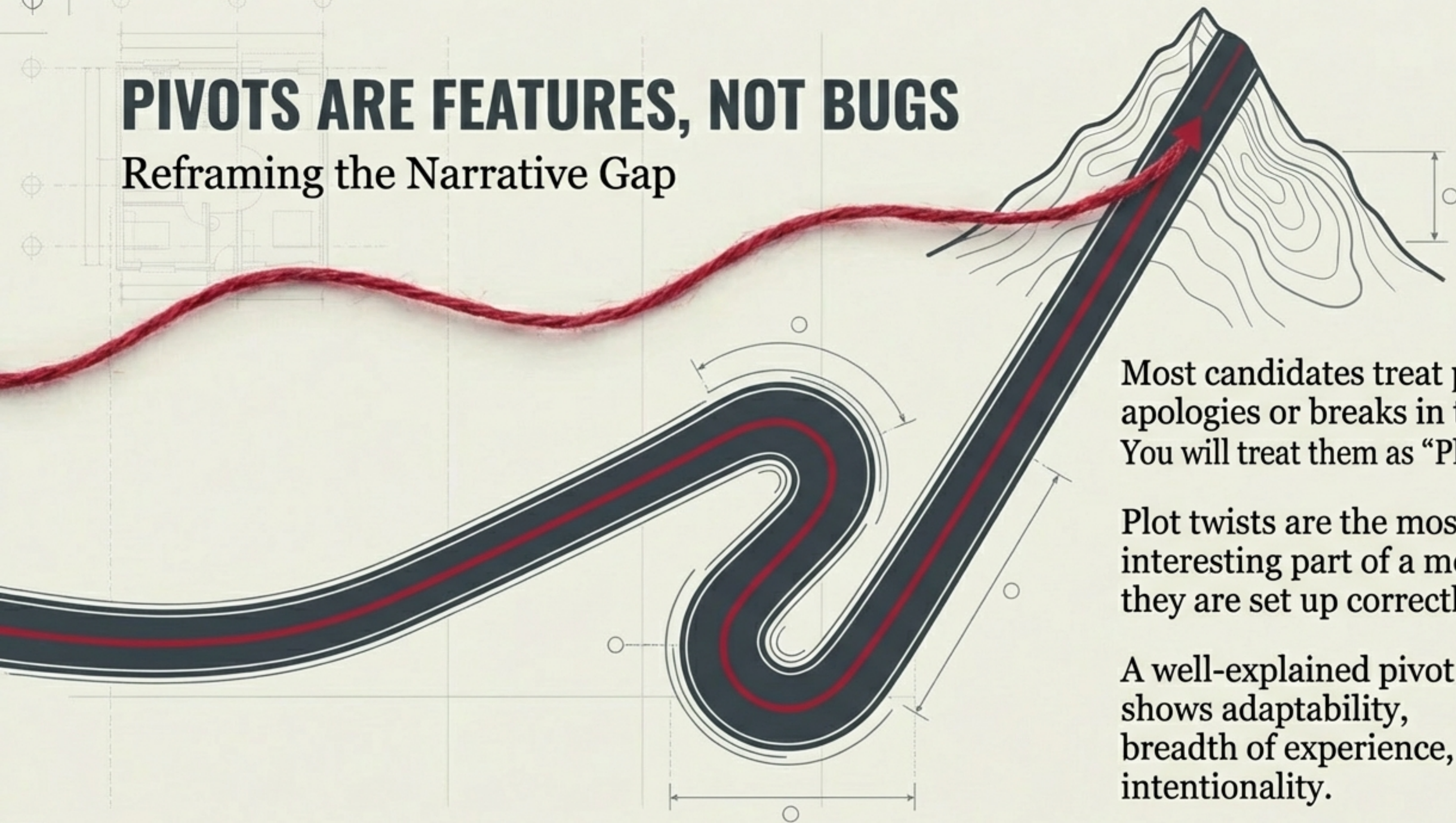


EXAMPLES OF THROUGH LINES:

- A consistent problem I love to solve.
- A specific population I am passionate about serving.
- A technical skill I have continuously deepened.

PIVOTS ARE FEATURES, NOT BUGS

Reframing the Narrative Gap



Most candidates treat pivots as apologies or breaks in the story. You will treat them as “Plot Twists.”

Plot twists are the most interesting part of a movie—if they are set up correctly.

A well-explained pivot shows adaptability, breadth of experience, and intentionality.

CONSTRUCTING THE BRIDGE

The Logic of the Move

THE FORMULA:

I realized [Insight], which led me to [New Path].

EXAMPLE (FINANCE TO TECH):

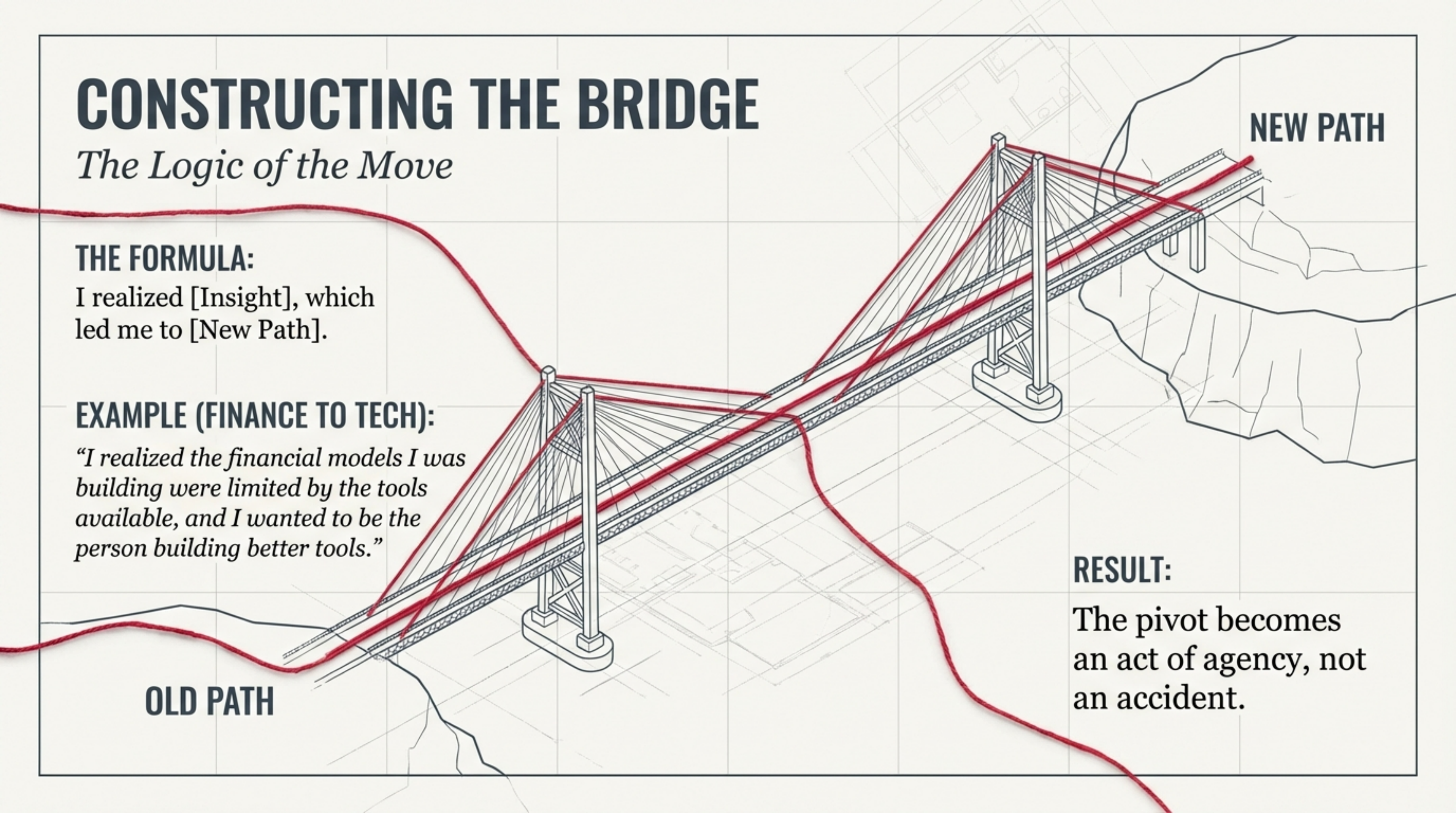
"I realized the financial models I was building were limited by the tools available, and I wanted to be the person building better tools."

OLD PATH

NEW PATH

RESULT:

The pivot becomes an act of agency, not an accident.





THE STORY ARC WORKSHOP

01. **TIMELINE**

List every job, role change, or major event in chronological order.

02. **THE WHY**

For each move, identify the 'Push' (what pushed you away) and the 'Pull' (what drew you next).

03. **THE PATTERN**

Look at the 'Whys.' What appears in every chapter? This is your Through Line.

04. **DRAFT**

Write the narrative without worrying about length first.

THREE VERSIONS FOR THREE CONTEXTS

THE 30-SECOND VERSION

(The Elevator Pitch)

Focus:

The Through Line +
Current Direction.

Use Case:

Quick intros, LinkedIn
headline logic.

THE 2-MINUTE VERSION

(Networking)

Focus:

Adds key development
moments from Act 2.

Use Case:

“What do you do?” or
coffee chats.

THE 5-MINUTE VERSION

(The Interview)

Focus:

Full arc with specific
examples and results.

Use Case:

“Tell me about
yourself.”

LEVERAGING AI AS YOUR STORY EDITOR

Use the provided AI prompts to stress-test your narrative.



TOOL 1: THE THROUGH LINE FINDER

Input your resume
to identify patterns
you missed.

TOOL 2: THE PIVOT BRIDGE BUILDER

Ask AI to articulate
the logical
connection
between two
disparate jobs.

TOOL 3: THE STRESS TEST

Ask AI to poke
holes in your logic:
“Does this
trajectory make
sense?”

THE TRANSFORMATION IN ACTION

BEFORE: THE CHRONOLOGY

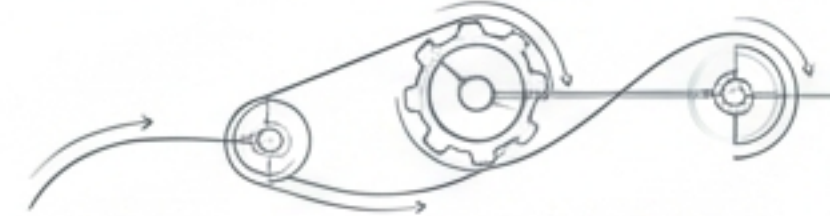
- 3 Years: Operations Coordinator at Company A.
- 2 Years: Process Improvement Lead at Company B.
- Current: Product Manager at Company C.

VERDICT: LOOKS LIKE JOB HOPPING.



AFTER: THE NARRATIVE

“I started in operations because I loved fixing broken systems. That led me to process improvement, where I discovered I was good at building tools for others. That guided me to Product Management, where I now lead teams building internal platforms.”



VERDICT: A CLEAR THROUGH LINE OF “SYSTEM OPTIMIZATION”.

UNCERTAINTY KILLS JOB OFFERS

A good story creates safety. It tells the hiring manager, “I know who I am, I know where I’m going, and I belong here.”

YOUR CHECKLIST:

- ☐ Complete the Story Arc Workshop.
- ☐ Define your Through Line.
- ☐ Draft your 3 versions (30s, 2m, 5m).
- ☐ Practice out loud.