You can’t really teach someone how to interview well.

You can make them aware of certain things so that they can improve.

At the end of the day, it’s all about practicing.
About the Process
Review a few things before an interview

- Review common data structures
  - You will learn/are learning them in 122
  - You’ll learn even more in 210 next year
- Review common algorithm questions.
  - Don’t mess up on an easy question!
- Make sure your resume doesn’t mention anything you’re not comfortable talking about.
- Look into what the company does.
  - They’ll usually ask you, “Why do you want to work here?”
Pre-interview Routines

- Have a pre-interview “routine” that gets you ready to do an interview.
  - Example: smile into a mirror for 5 minutes
    - If it's on-site and I’m in a waiting room, I just cover my mouth and smile.
  - The Hidden Power of Smiling
    https://youtu.be/U9cGdRNMdQQ
- Do anything you can to improve your confidence before going in.
Interviews are all about talking & communicating

- You’re most likely being interviewed by an engineer.
- They don’t expect you to be the biggest algorithm master on the planet.
- They want to make sure that if you get hired that they’d be happy to have you on their own team.
- Be excited about the company.
  - Don’t let the interviewer get the vibe that this isn’t your first choice.
- Make sure to always be talking about your thought process.
  - If there’s a span of time where it’s completely silent you are doing something wrong.
  - Always be explaining what you’re thinking about and what you’re writing.
The types of questions vary wildly

- For the most part, you won’t get asked terribly difficult interview questions.
- Most interview questions you’ll encounter will be easily solved using a hashtable.
- Interview questions are meant to be solvable in a short amount of time, but usually there are multiple stages to the answers.
Answering Questions
How to solve interview questions

- Always give the worst answer first.
  - If you immediately have a solution to a problem, even if it is super slow, say it.
  - I cannot stress the importance of this enough.
  - You absolutely MUST let the interviewer know that you can solve it.

- After that, you can try and optimize it.
  - Remember that the interviewer isn’t just trying to make sure you know how to solve these problems.
  - He/she is trying to see how you go about solving the problems.

- If all goes wrong, chances are the interviewer is going to give you a hint.
  - They understand that there’s pressure to solve the problem.
  - If an interviewer gives you a hint, run with it.
Practice Time!
Common Linked List questions

- Print out the elements in a linked list in order.
- Detect a cycle in a linked list.
- Reverse a linked list.
Final tips

- Don’t take it personally if you don’t get good news.
  - Two interviewers at the same company will ask you completely different questions and would conclude different things
  - Just because you didn’t pass with one doesn’t mean you are not good enough.
  - Don’t believe me?

- Don’t get arrogant after getting offers.
  - Future interviewers will detect your arrogance and that’s a huge turn off.