## UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS CAREER SERVICES

The Case Interview



### WHAT IS A CASE INTERVIEW?

A case interview is a portion of an interview that aims to see how you handle a situation similar to one you would face on the job.

## WHAT DOES A CASE INTERVIEW TEST?

- Time Management Skills
  - Can you make the most of the time you're given?
- Ability to Focus
  - Will you be able to concentrate on this one task?
- Performance Under Pressure
  - How well do you deal with a task given to you on the spot?
- Reasoning/Analytical Skills
  - How do you organize your thoughts as you come up with a solution?
- Communication Skills
  - Can you explain your conclusions in a way that the interviewer will understand?

#### HOW TO APPROACH A CASE INTERVIEW

While there are online prep books available, being too structured risks making you seem less authentic. The best way to prepare would be to understand why the company is giving you a case and to predict some industry-related topics that they could test you on.

#### POTENTIAL CASE INTERVIEW TOPICS

Case interview topics vary per position and industry, with some basic examples being:

- Business analysis
- Profitability
- Technology
- Estimates

# DURING THE CASE INTERVIEW

Make a loose outline to plan how you will approach the case, one example would be:

- 1.) Carefully read through the case
- 2.) Ask clarifying questions
- 3.) Summarize issues and findings
- 4.) Give your recommendations
- 5.) Present next steps and expected results of your solution