

Topic Discussion Activity



Deloitte.

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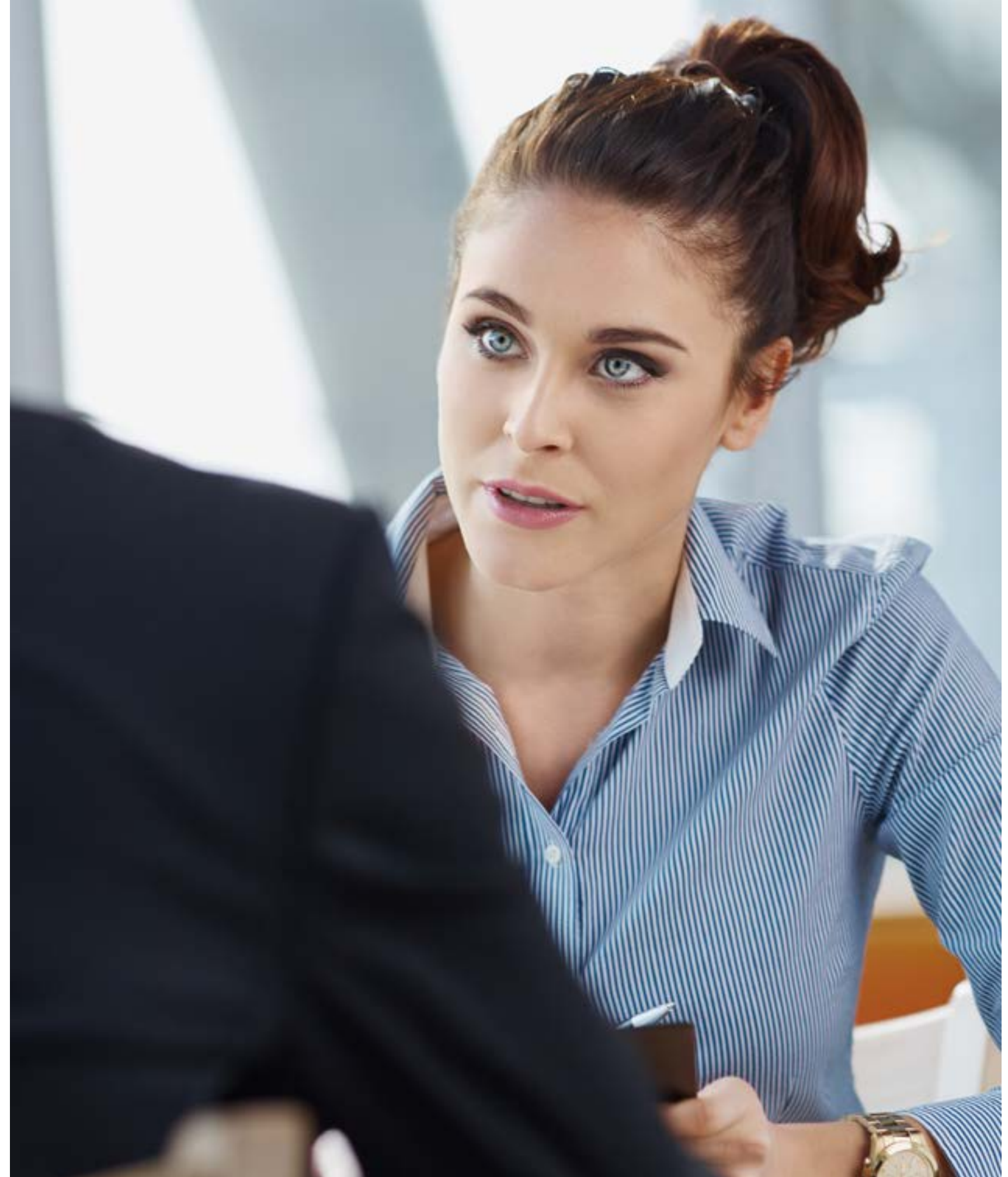
Introduction

The Topic Discussion activity is an exciting opportunity for you to showcase in person your own skills and learn more about some of the topics we, and our clients, are interested in.

As part of this activity, you'll be stepping into the shoes of a member of the Deloitte team! We'll provide you with everything you need to help set you up for success. This guide will walk you through how to prepare, as well as lots of tips to help you on the day.



Use the arrows to move from page to page and the icons to go to another section.



Your Task



Scenario

Your new line manager has asked you to conduct an analysis on your chosen topic. You should spend approximately two hours preparing in advance for this. You then have a 15-minute (maximum) discussion with them on your findings and recommendations (see the Mandatory Preparation Section on the Candidate Zone). Click the numbers to learn more about what you need to do at each stage.



1

2

3

4



Research



In this stage, you'll want to gather as much information as possible to inform your discussion. You might not use every piece of information you find, but it will help you think about the topic more deeply and prepare for an effective discussion.



You may find the below research resources valuable:



Type of Source	Source (click for link)
General Search	Google Bing
News Websites	BBC News The Guardian
Free AI Tools	ChatGPT Gemini Perplexity Copilot

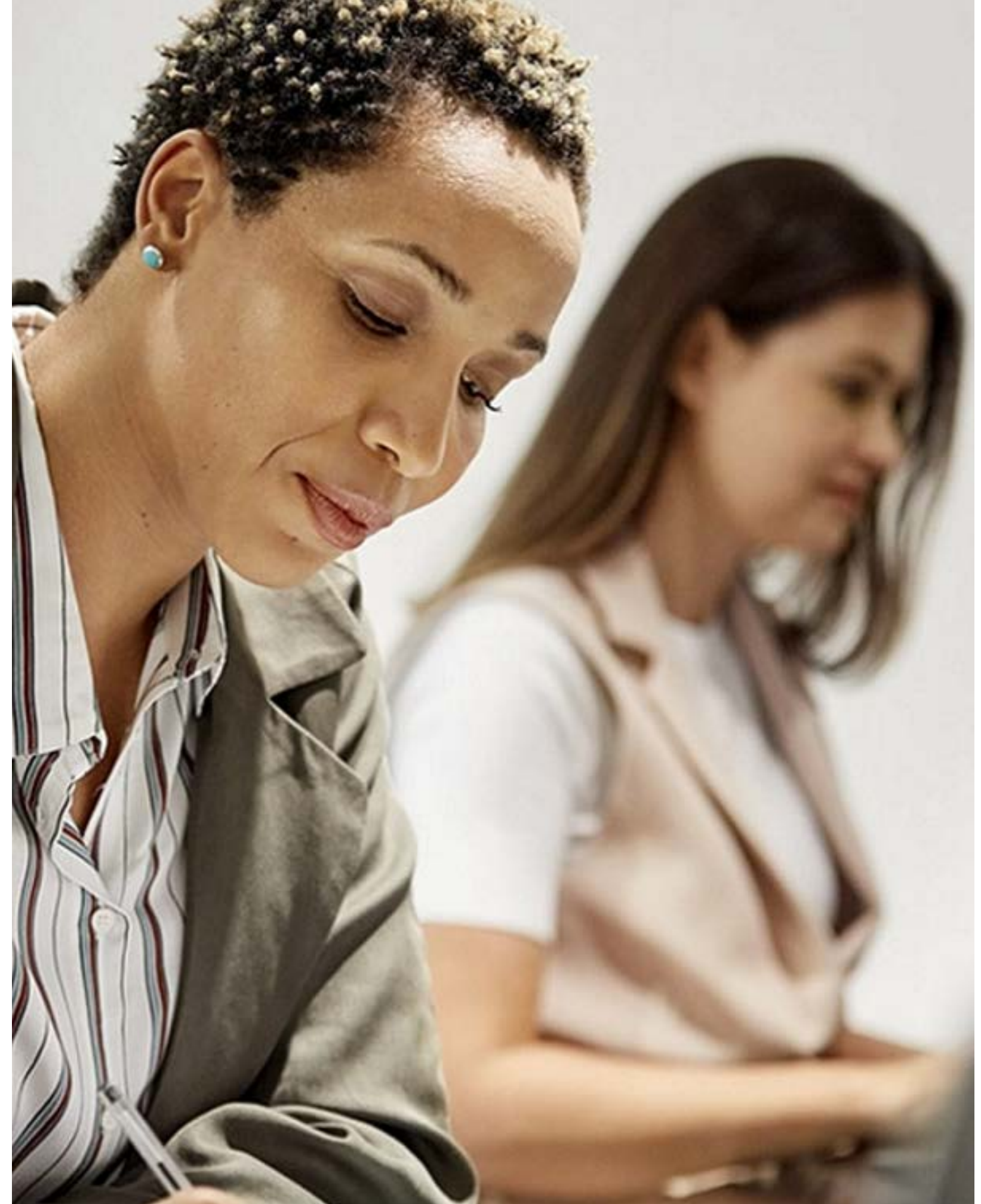
Free AI tools such as Chat GPT can be really useful for brainstorming, content generation and identifying potential biases. However, be sure to verify the accuracy of any AI-generated content. You might find this article from [Harvard University](#) helpful in terms of writing effective AI prompts.



Research - helpful hints

Helpful hints to prepare or your discussion.

- ✓ Verify your findings. Cross-check information from multiple sources to ensure accuracy. Use reputable publications, peer-reviewed journals, and authoritative websites.
- ✓ Practical Insights: Focus on practical and actionable insights rather than purely academic references. Your goal is to show understanding and application.
- ✓ You don't need to become an expert in the topic, but extra research beyond the sources in the pre-work instructions will help improve your answer.
- ✓ Try to use data in your argument. This is a good way to showcase your comfort with analysis and to evidence your points.
- ✓ Use a diverse range of sources, articles, statistics, case studies and real-world examples.
- ✓ You should spend approximately 2 hours preparing in advance for the discussion.



Analyse and prepare

As you research and review information, the following checklist may be useful in helping you to build an effective and well-rounded discussion:

- **Think about the implications, not just the facts.**
Ask yourself, what would this piece of information mean for the real world (e.g., for a client and their business?)
- **Think about the topic and the bigger picture.**
Ask yourself, what does this mean for Deloitte and its services?
- **Think critically about what you read to build a balanced discussion.** Ask yourself, what are the potential counterarguments to this piece of information?
- **Consider your audience.** Ask yourself, why should my line manager care about this piece of information and take it seriously?



Analyse and prepare

As you analyse your information, you might want to use the provided template to prepare your discussion.

Click the button on the right to be taken to the template in the Candidate Zone.
You can download a copy of this to make notes.

Click here
to access the
Analysis Template

On the next slide, you will find a completed version of the template as an example. This is based on the topic “The Growth of the Metaverse in Business.”
What do you observe about the notes in each section? What do you think are the key takeaways as you prepare to complete your own template?

Use the box below to make a note of any reflections.



Analyse and prepare



Positive implications	Negative implications 
• Innovation: Metaverse can create innovative ways of doing things, e.g., virtual showrooms, training experiences, interactive virtual meetings • Early Adoption: The technology is relatively new and can be influenced by businesses that adopt metaverse technologies early – i.e. gain an early footprint on the industry before it becomes commonplace, aiding mastery and adoption • Immersion: Metaverse can create immersive environments for customers, e.g., improve online shopping experiences through virtual stores, or holiday tours for tourism	• High Costs: Significant investment is needed to use the technology and continue development, e.g., early adoption of technology tends to be expensive and less efficient – particularly with complex technology like VR • Technical Challenges: Complex technology that may be difficult to implement and maintain – i.e. even though the technology can be useful, it can be practically difficult to implement at scale • User Adoption: Uncertainty about widespread user acceptance and comfort with the metaverse – While VR use has grown, 171 million users worldwide in 2023, there are reputational difficulties, particularly with older generations
Opportunities	Risks and issues
• New Markets: Expansion into new and untapped markets – i.e. the virtual emphasis of this technology allows businesses to reach markets regardless of physical barriers • Collaboration: Opportunities for new forms of collaboration and remote work – e.g, improved global collaboration, moving beyond the static environment of video call into the 3D world • Revenue Streams: Potential for new revenue streams through virtual goods and services – e.g., there is already evidence of market appetite for virtual products, like NFTs and virtual cosmetics, this will only continue to grow	• Competition: Rapidly increasing competition as more businesses enter the metaverse – i.e., as more and more businesses join the meta, there will be more competition for user attention • Regulatory Issues: Potential for new regulations that could impact metaverse operations – i.e. Precedent is now being set regarding technology. We have already seen GDPR severely change the way businesses must work with their data, we must be careful to pre-empt anything similar for VR and the meta



Analyse and prepare



Helpful hints to help you prepare for your discussion.

- ✓ **Think about structure:** Planning ahead will help you cover everything you need to. Use the template on the next stage to think about and plan how you will use the 15 minutes allocated to you.
- ✓ **Use storytelling:** Consider thinking about your discussion as a story. What are the points you raise leading up to? What are the clear takeaway messages you want your assessor to hear?
- ✓ **Remember the context:** Keep in mind that you are delivering this to your line manager who is considering their service offerings to clients. Don't just read back your findings, use them to make clear and actionable recommendations and ideas.
- ✓ **Practice makes perfect:** Practice delivering your discussion in advance and getting feedback from others, where possible. You might find that this helps you to refine your discussion and increase your confidence. Time your practice sessions so you know how you are performing against your planned time allocation. Please remember, it's not a presentation but a two-way discussion.
- ✓ **Jogging your memory:** Take some time to think about what notes or aids you will take into the session with you. Remember that you don't need to prepare any slides but think about what will support you to deliver your best effort.
- ✓ **Taking notes:** it may be helpful to take some notes, so please ensure you have a pen and some paper with you.



Analyse and prepare



Use the table below to spend some time thinking about the structure of your discussion and how you will use the 15 minutes allocated to you. There is no right way to structure a discussion, the below is just a guide.



Section	Purpose	Example Timing Allocation (mins)	Your Timing Allocation (mins)	Your Notes
Introduction	State the purpose of your discussion and outline the key points you'll cover.	2		
Positive Implications	Deliver the key parts of your discussion, showing the multiple angles of the topic.	2		
Negative Implications		2		
Opportunities		2		
Risks and Issues		2		
Business Opportunities for Deloitte		3		
Conclusion	Summarise the main points you've made and restate the importance of your topic.	2		



Handling hiring manager questions

Please remember, this discussion activity is not a one way presentation of your ideas. Whilst we are excited to hear your thinking, this activity is a two-way discussion with a hiring manager. Throughout the activity, they will ask you questions to understand your thinking in more detail and to clarify where required.

Handling Q&A Confidently

- Use the template on the next page to brainstorm possible responses to questions your assessor might ask.
- As you prepare your discussion, you might like to imagine yourself as the assessor and possible questions they might have based on the content you have put together.
- If you don't know an answer, it's okay to say so.



Discuss



Use the table below to think about possible questions your hiring manager might ask you, and the response you would try to provide. We have included an example question to get your started:



Question	My Response
What research did you come across that you decided to discount?	
Add your own question	
Add your own question	



Summary and reflection

So hopefully now you're feeling confident and looking forward to the assessment day.

We can't wait to meet you.

Here's a reminder of four important messages from us:



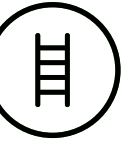
Relax

As with any of the other assessment activities, try and relax and be yourself. This is all about getting to know the real, authentic you. You might want to take a look at this guide on **Getting Set Up For Success**.



Need help? Ask us.

If you need any support or adjustments to help you participate, let us know. See the **Deloitte Early Careers Helpdesk** for more details.



Summary and reflection



How did it go?

After the activity reflect on your experience. It's always really important to reflect after any important assessment activity.

Preferably while it's still fresh in your mind think about:

What did you do well?

What did you learn from the experience?

What support or development may help you?

What would you do differently next time?

What did you learn about your capabilities?

Reflect on any feedback you receive after the activity too. Save your reflections. You'll find them helpful prompts for your development in the future.

Please type your reflections here



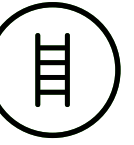
Need more information?

Remember to check the Final Stage Experience page on the Candidate Zone to see what's in your final stage assessment.

We have a series of guides which provide more information about getting prepared for the final stage and other exercises that might be included. These are:

Getting Set up for Success

Interview Guide





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