Job Summary

A) Co-op Work Assignment

I worked in the Institutional Securities Group: Technology supporting the fixed income credit derivatives business. Morgan Stanley has proprietary software for its fixed income traders, and I helped to develop this application during fall 2012 and summer 2013. In particular, I worked on a couple of smaller enhancement projects with my manager during the beginning of the term to learn more about the systems, tools, and best practices, eventually culminating with a longer term individual project. These projects included making time series data more easily accessible by building a Java API for accessing this data across multiple data sources as well as a monitoring dashboard in C# for determining when CDS quotes were submitted to the clearing house (MarkIT).

Most of the training was for how systems worked in Credit Technologies at Morgan Stanley. This meant that I was able to use a lot of internal wikis to get set up and speak with people on my team to determine what requirements would be needed for projects. Almost no formal training was provided to complete the job since we were assumed to have a basic understanding of Java development. I learned C# on the job since it was so similar to Java.

While I had an assigned mentor, I mostly spoke with my manager or a Desk Strategist on the business side to get questions answered. My senior mentor (an MD) took me out to lunch, and my junior mentor helped give me get a broader understanding of technology development. Project specific questions were always answered by my manager or the desk strategist who owned the project.
B) Assessment of Learning and Development

I thought the overall learning and development was beneficial. I was able to practice a lot of development work and become more familiar with Java and C#. Similarly, I learned about an average day of work as an Engineer in Financial Services. While I gained a good understanding of the business side, I was not able to really learn about other roles at Morgan Stanley other than within technology. I think this position made me realize why personal initiative is very important in the work place. One thing that I would do differently if I was to go back would be to ask a lot of dumb questions because that is one of the easiest ways to build rapport with other engineers.

C) Life Out-side of Co-op

I found housing once through Craigslist and then once through the NYU housing system. I would definitely consider NYU housing as the better option, especially if there are other people who are also working. Most of the social activities that happened during the summer were created by a group of friends that I knew from Cornell. During the fall, I spent a lot of time exploring New York by myself since I was still underage, and did not know a lot of people in New York. I took the subway as my transportation system of choice. One thing that Morgan Stanley did offer was one community service event during the summer.

D) Evaluation

The best features of this job were the work environment experience, and the opportunity to work at one of the most well-known investment banks. The worst feature of this job was not getting the opportunity to learn about other areas of the business.
E) Additional Info

Do your best to figure out what you will be working on beforehand. Usually its undetermined until you get there, but the problem with that is there were times when I didn’t have too much to do (this is true of a lot of other co-op students as well from Waterloo and from Cornell who work at Morgan Stanley Technology).
A) Co-op Work Assignment

I worked in the Institutional Securities Group: Technology supporting the fixed income credit derivatives business. Morgan Stanley has proprietary software for its fixed income traders, and I helped to develop this application during fall 2012 and summer 2013. In particular, I worked on a couple of smaller enhancement projects with my manager during the beginning of the term to learn more about the systems, tools, and best practices, eventually culminating with a longer term individual project. These projects included making time series data more easily accessible by building a Java API for accessing this data across multiple data sources as well as a monitoring dashboard in C# for determining when CDS quotes were submitted to the clearing house (MarkIT).

Most of the training was for how systems worked in Credit Technologies at Morgan Stanley. This meant that I was able to use a lot of internal wikis to get set up and speak with people on my team to determine what requirements would be needed for projects. Almost no formal training was provided to complete the job since we were assumed to have a basic understanding of Java development. I learned C# on the job since it was so similar to Java.

While I had an assigned mentor, I mostly spoke with my manager or a Desk Strategist on the business side to get questions answered. My senior mentor (an MD) took me out to lunch, and my junior mentor helped give me get a broader understanding of technology development. Project specific questions were always answered by my manager or the desk strategist who owned the project.
B) Assessment of Learning and Development

I thought the overall learning and development was beneficial. I was able to practice a lot of development work and become more familiar with Java and C#. Similarly, I learned about an average day of work as an Engineer in Financial Services. While I gained a good understanding of the business side, I was not able to really learn about other roles at Morgan Stanley other than within technology. I think this position made me realize why personal initiative is very important in the work place. One thing that I would do differently if I was to go back would be to ask a lot of dumb questions because that is one of the easiest ways to build rapport with other engineers.

C) Life Out-side of Co-op

I found housing once through Craigslist and then once through the NYU housing system. I would definitely consider NYU housing as the better option, especially if there are other people who are also working. Most of the social activities that happened during the summer were created by a group of friends that I knew from Cornell. During the fall, I spent a lot of time exploring New York by myself since I was still underage, and did not know a lot of people in New York. I took the subway as my transportation system of choice. One thing that Morgan Stanley did offer was one community service event during the summer.

D) Evaluation

The best features of this job were the work environment experience, and the opportunity to work at one of the most well-known investment banks. The worst feature of this job was not getting the opportunity to learn about other areas of the business.
E) Additional Info

Do your best to figure out what you will be working on beforehand. Usually its undetermined until you get there, but the problem with that is there were times when I didn’t have too much to do (this is true of a lot of other co-op students as well from Waterloo and from Cornell who work at Morgan Stanley Technology).