

What they don't tell you about jobs, internships, and your career

Adapted from Eric Woodard's convocation and workshop at Eastern Mennonite University on October 23, 2019

Get a job or internship that works for you:

- Authenticity is your superpower.
 - Do you have weird hobbies? Do you care SO MUCH about something? Be a dork, because otherwise, you are just the same as someone else.
- A good resume is about them.
 - Show that you know the organization well on your resume AND in your interview.
 - What are their values? What is a project they are working on? What experiences can you talk about to match the job description?
- Be a spy.
 - Know the organization and the job description well. Read their whole website, employees' LinkedIn pages, social media. Google the heck out of wherever you are interested in and interviewing for.
- Build trust.
 - Don't act like you're hiding anything. If you have a LinkedIn or a webpage, put it on your resume.
 - Clean up your facebook, use a legitimate looking email (I'm looking at you skaterdude22@yahoo.com), and make your online presence unique and professional.
- Know your story.
 - Your humble beginnings: The experiences/people that brought you to this place.
 - Your present reality: How you want to grow right now and what experiences you need to know to make that happen.
 - Your dreams: The person you are seeking to be in the near future and far into your career.
- There are no "rules". Do what you gotta do!
 - The Quilting Association in Vermont made a quilted invitation for their conference and sent it to First Lady Hillary Clinton. She accepted the invitation! Get someone's attention by going above and beyond (in a good way).
 - There is a difference between a real rule and what is "normal". If everyone's resume looks the same, you WANT to stand out. Be bold and not normal.
- Design your career around what kind of lifestyle you want
 - Does your workplace value your health, your goals, your family situation, and your personal time?
 - What do you want to do when you're not working? Think about:
 - Family/Relationships/Friends
 - Travel
 - Side gigs
 - Volunteering
 - Passions

- What are your values? Does your job influence the community/world in the way that you want?
- What do you need to live (income/insurance/time off)?

You've made it to your internship/job. Here's how to rock it:

- Be a stone cold professional
 - Look for the answers to your questions, ask your colleagues if you can't find the answers, and listen well.
 - When it comes to your projects and the organization, know what you know AND know what you *don't* know.
- Be a specialist
 - Figure out what the world, your community, or a population needs and address that need
- Talk to the people you want to be.
 - Ask people you know if they can connect you to people who share your interests and have experience in the field.
 - Do your research to find someone who does a job you think is awesome. Contact them and tell them you love what they have done and hope to be where they are someday. Ask for an informational interview!
- People put their pants on one leg at a time.
 - Workplaces and colleagues sometimes try to psych you out. Remember that they don't have any superpowers. At one point, they were 22 and knew just as little about the working world as you.
- Own things and make boundaries.
 - Go for it on your own projects and show your creativity. Think about the big picture and the little things.
 - Learn to say no to what isn't your responsibility and protect your time for your job.
- Take the ideas that work for you and filter out the ones that don't match your situation.
 - If an internship turns out not to be what you wanted or expected, take as much as you can out of your experience. (This could mean learning how to "manage up" or communicate with HR about your situation).