

12 Myths to Trash if You Want to Get Hired

Avoid these misconceptions

From an article provided by
USAA on its website:

https://www.usaa.com/inet/ent_utils/McStaticPages?key=advice_job_search_myths&EID=corp_cc_2009_11-02

12 Myths to Trash if You Want to Get Hired

- ▶ **Myth 1: Most jobs are advertised in newspapers and online sites**
 - Only 15% to 20% of job openings are publicly posted
 - The number of people actually hired through these ads is less than half that were advertised (Randall Hansen [Quintessential Careers](#))
 - Many employers finding e-job applications more of a hassle than help
 - Employers are flooded with resumes from online ads (Christine Bolzan, [Graduate Career Coaching](#))

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- ▶ **Myth 2: The Web is the modern way to search for work**
 - Sound out friends and family about openings
 - Schedule informational interviews with people in your field of interest
 - Catch up with former colleagues and classmates
 - Get involved in professional organizations
 - Join and be actively involved in the St Joseph Job Club (my add)

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- ▶ **Myth 3: Resume + cover letter = interview ± job**
 - Today, you have to market yourself and your skills
 - Consider a career-focused website or blog as a way to tell your story
 - Use professional networking sites like [LinkedIn](#) to promote your experience, research what's current in your career field and develop professional contacts (J.T. O'Donnell, [Careerealism.com](#))

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- ▶ **Myth 4: The more applications in play, the more offers on the way**
 - Put away the application shotgun and become a job sharpshooter
 - Study the positions you want and identify the companies that have them
 - Aim carefully by crafting customized resumes and cover letters designed to hit the mark
 - "It's a matter of quality over quantity"
J.T. O'Donnell, Careerealism.com

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- ▶ **Myth 5: Any job in this economy is a good job**
 - If the rent is due and your desired job eludes you, taking a career detour may be unavoidable
 - Keep faith with your long-range professional goals
 - Keep your skills current
 - Stay active in related organizations
 - Take a classes to add new skills
 - Volunteer for a non profit organization relating to your desired career

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- ▶ **Myth 6: Experience and qualifications matter more than character**
 - Most interviewers gauge how well candidates might fit in with their team.
 - At your interview, smile, make eye contact, ask informed questions and demonstrate genuine enthusiasm for the position.
 - Never undervalue authenticity and likability in your effort to win the job

J.T. O'Donnell, Careerealism.com

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- ▶ **Myth 7: It's not what you know, it's who you know**
 - “It's more a matter of how well you know them, when you knew them and who they know”
 - "You need to stay in contact with decision-makers even when they aren't hiring"
 - "You need to let them know you're still out there by gently touching base every 30 to 45 days.”

Christine Bolzan, [Graduate Career Coaching](#)

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▶ **Myth 8: The interview is all about you**

- A job interview is more than a one-way audition of your skills and personality
- Show genuine interest in the company and position
- Learn everything you can about the company and if possible, the person who will be interviewing you
- Scope out online information about the company through Google searches
- Learn about your interviewer through LinkedIn company profiles and corporate Tweeters
 - Shared alma maters, favorite teams or professional memberships can go a long way to breaking the ice

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- ▶ **Myth 9: Dumbing down your resume is an effective strategy**
 - Being told you're overqualified may tempt you to remove dates and even advanced degrees from your resume
 - This would be a mistake and can be a deal killer if a background check reveals the truth
 - It is better to explain in detail why you're enthusiastic about the position and the company and what specific needs you are uniquely qualified to meet
 - Demonstrate you have the flexibility and qualities to mesh with the team
 - Ask questions and show your readiness to learn what others have to teach

J.T. O'Donnell, Careerealism.com

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- ▶ **Myth 10: Grad school is always a good fallback**
 - “Only go to grad school if you can 100% prove that you need those skills to advance your long-term goals”
 - “Using higher education as a place to wait out a down job market could leave you further behind financially and professionally”

J.T. O'Donnell, Careerealism.com

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- ▶ **Myth 11: Landing a job you love is the most important thing**
 - Do you prefer to work solo, or as part of a team?
 - Do you thrive in high-pressure situations, or easygoing environments?
 - Is your computer like an extension of your fingers and brain, or a necessary electronic evil?
- ▶ Leverage this self-knowledge to target jobs and careers that play to these preferences and strengths

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- ▶ **Myth 12: If you've been fired, your job prospects are toast**
 - Getting fired or laid off doesn't carry the stigma it once did.
 - What counts is how you handle interview questions about the situation.
 - DO NOT rip into your old boss or workplace.
 - Take the rational, philosophical route. Think of jobs like shoes — some fit better than others.
 - It just wasn't a good fit
 - Finish that thought by explaining why this job seems tailor-made

J.T. O'Donnell, Careerealism.com

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- ▶ This is not a myth:

Getting a job is hard work