

## RESUME WRITING TOOLKIT

The resume is used as a marketing brochure to sell your skills and experience to a prospective manager/employer. The brochure presents you and includes the features and benefits you have to offer. The purpose of the resume is to open the door for further discussion and should highlight your achievements that will get you the interview.

It is recommended that you have your resume in two different applications; one for emailing as an attachment in MSWord for mailing and distributing, and an electronic version in Text for online posting in systems like the State's on-line job application system, Hiring Gateway.

### **Text Resume (ascii) Formatting**

To convert a Word document into a text or ascii version for applying online:

1. open the Word file, save as---text only (do not use text with line breaks), you will get a response that tells you that you will be losing all your formatting and it asks if you want to proceed and you say "yes."
2. To review the text version, you will have to open the file either through Windows Explorer or through Notepad. Open Notepad and find your file. (You can access Notepad through Programs/Accessories/Notepad) on your Start menu in the lower left hand corner of your desktop.
3. Open the file and review your resume. Do not break lines. You will need the lines to be flexible to fit any sized text box. The resume is not very attractive, but you can make it easier to read through spacing. Make necessary adjustments for easier reading and aesthetics.
4. Instead of bullet points, you can use asterisks to set some information off. The asterisk is above the number 8 on your keyboard. You can also use capital letters for your heading instead of bolding, which does not save in a text version of a document.

Edited from the State of Arizona HR layoff Toolkit

## RESUME WRITING TIPS

<b>Do's</b>	<b>Don'ts</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use a chronological format, which lists your work experience in reverse chronological order</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't exceed two pages in length unless you have publications, patents, or extensive related certifications</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open with a summary statement highlighting who you are – type of work experiences, type of industries, major work functions, and key skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't change your resume for every job position. Tweak the resume to match the language and skills</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you have a technical background, include a technical summary – hardware, software, operating systems etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't throw a resume together for the sake of getting it done; spend quality time with a consultant composing it</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include a key word section of your key qualifications, competencies, and certifications</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't use personal pronouns like I, me, they, and their</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emphasize accomplishments, not just responsibilities. Start each statement with an <i>Action Verb like managed, composed, edited, coordinated</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't include dates under education</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emphasize the end results</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't include references.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use “bullets” to list accomplishments in SOAR formula (Situation, Obstacles, Actions, Results)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't use personal e-mail address with nicknames or other phrases that may cause bias</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education – include anything beyond high school even if you did not finish college or only took 1 or 2 courses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't include total number of years work experience, such as “over 25 years in _ _ _ _”</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include AZ Learning Center training, conferences or seminars and other related corporate training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't include hobbies or other personal information such as height, weight, and marital status, unless the hobby is service oriented and would provide a connection with your audience</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• End resume with Community Affiliations and Professional Associations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't say “References Available Upon Request” at the end of resume – this is a dated approach</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awards should be listed under the title of the job where you earned them as an accomplishment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't need to include months of employment - only years unless the agency requires months. Agencies like DES require months.</li> </ul>

# RESUME TEMPLATE

Effective resumes have several key components to appropriately highlight your skills. The following is an outline showing each section and the associated content description.

## Section 1

**Heading:** Name in bold, all caps and centered, with home phone and/or fax/office/mobile to the left or right and email address. Home address is now optional

## Section 2

**Summary Statement: shown in the following {5 elements in brackets}**

[Professional Label] with extensive [general functional area] background in [3-4 things you want to be hired to do] with [industry/types of organizations] at [organizational level/location] in support of [people you relate to] [Experience includes:] Reputation for being (punctual, detail oriented, ethical, etc. – list traits here.)

## Section 3

**Key Qualifications:** *You may want to review the job posting, as well as knowledge, skills and abilities (KSA's) required for the position.* Use 6-12 key words that describe your talent or skills. You should have an accomplishment statement to backup your key words. Try to select those that match the job announcement.

- Automated Management
- Efficiency Improvement
- Material Planning
- Quality Assurance
- Project Management
- Problem Solving

## Section 3 option

**Key Accomplishments:** Highlight by bulleting your 3 or 4 top accomplishments here.

## Section 4

### Professional Experience:

Start with your company, city, state, most recent job and title, years in position (use only the years employed unless the organization requires months. (For example, ASU and DES are organizations that require months on the resume.)). Include a brief job description (2 or 3 sentences of your high-level responsibilities, scope, functions, number of direct reports, budget information). Add 3 to 4 accomplishments applicable to that position (bullet after the job description).

***Accomplishment statement should be written in a 4-step process***

- 1) Identify a skill you have
- 2) Turn the skill into action verb
- 3) Describe what you did with that skill

- 4) Explain what resulted; express results as follows: ↑ Revenue (\$) / sales,  
↓ Costs, ↑ Productivity, ↑ Quality, ↑ Process / Procedure, Solved a problem  
↑ Customer satisfaction

## **Section 5**

### **Education:**

List degree, educational institution, city and state. DO NOT INCLUDE DATES unless you have earned your degree or a new certification within the last 5 years. List any post secondary education/classes you have taken, even if you did not complete a degree. You should list highest degree first. Note: *If you have not taken post secondary or college classes, just eliminate the education section. You can indicate high school or GED accomplishments on the job application.*

## **Section 6**

### **Professional Development:**

List training, seminars, certifications, or classes you have taken that are applicable to the position for which you are applying. Do not include dates.

## **Section 7**

### **Professional Associations:**

List any professional associations in which you are currently a member and those that are relevant to the position and your field. Additionally, list any professional associations in which you were a past member if you held an office: list the office you held.

## **Section 8**

### **Community Affiliations:**

List any community affiliations you have or in which you serve. Be cautious of institutions that may cause biases. Religious organizations may cause a bias, however, the experience may also show leadership skills, teaching ability, etc. You need to be the judge if you feel your volunteerism will help or hinder you.

## ACTION WORDS FOR RESUME WRITING

accomplished	budgeted	critiqued	established
achieved	built	cultivated	evaluated
activated	calculated	cut	examined
adapted	campaigned	dealt with	exceeded
added	canvassed	decided	executed
addressed	capitalized on	defined	exercised
adjudicated	carried on	delegated	exhibited
administered	caused	delivered	expanded
advanced	centralized	demonstrated	expedited
advertised	certified	depicted	experienced
advised	chaired	described	explained
advocated	championed	designated	expressed
affected	classified	designed	facilitated
allocated	coached	detailed	financed
analyzed	collaborated	detected	focused
annotated	collected	determined	forced
announced	committed	developed	forged
answered	communicated	devised	formulated
anticipated	compelled	dictated	fostered
appeased	compiled	directed	found
applied	completed	discovered	founded
appropriated	composed	discussed	fulfilled
approved	compromised	dispensed	gained
arbitrated	computed	displayed	gathered
argued	conceived	dominated	generated
arranged	concentrated	doubled	governed
articulated	conceptualized	downsized	grew
asserted	conducted	drafted	grouped
assigned	consolidated	drove	guaranteed
assisted	constructed	earned	guided
assumed	consulted	edited	handled
assured	contracted	educated	headed
attained	controlled	eliminated	heightened
audited	conversed	employed	hired
augmented	converted	empowered	identified
authored	convinced	encouraged	illustrated
authorized	cooperated	endorsed	implemented
bargained	coordinated	engaged in	impressed
bid	corrected	engineered	improved
boosted	corresponded	enhanced	incorporated
bought	counseled	enlarged	increased
briefed	created	enlisted	induced

4/14/2016

influenced  
informed  
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reorganized  
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restored  
restructured  
revamped  
reviewed  
revised  
revitalized  
revived  
revolutionized  
scheduled  
secured  
selected  
served (as)  
set (up)  
settled  
simulated  
sold  
solved  
specified  
spelled out  
spoke  
started  
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steered  
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systematized  
targeted

taught  
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trained  
translated  
tripled  
turned around  
underwrote  
unified  
united  
updated  
upgraded  
upheld  
urged  
used  
utilized  
verbalized  
verified  
voiced  
won  
wrote

**NAME**

**123 Main Street • Addison, Illinois 98109 • 425.555.0139  
someone@example.com**

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**SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS**

Highly organized and detail-focused **Bookkeeper** with an exceptional track record of accurately handling financial reporting in deadline-oriented environments.

- Skilled in all aspects of recording transactions, posting debits and credits, reconciling accounts, and ensuring accuracy and completeness of data.
- Expertise in developing and delivering monthly, quarterly, and annual financial statements for management within tight deadlines.
- Proficiency in managing accounts payable and accounts receivable, generating invoices and monthly statements for clients.
- Proven ability to identify and implement improvements to streamline processes and increase efficiency and productivity.
- Excellent computer skills; proficient with Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, and QuickBooks and able to learn proprietary systems/applications quickly and easily.

**Skill Proficiencies**

- Quarterly Reports
- Accounts Payable/Receivable
- Budget Preparation
- Process Improvement
- Financial Statements
- Reconciliation

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Contoso Pharmaceuticals – Addison, Illinois 2000 – Present

**FULL-CHARGE BOOKKEEPER**

Manage all financial transactions, posting debits and credits, producing financial statements, and recording all transactions. Prepare management reports and financial summaries using Microsoft Excel detailing company's financial status. Generate bank deposits, verify and balance receipts. Create invoices and track overdue accounts. Manage payroll and prepare payroll tax returns. Research and resolve billing and collections disputes.

*Key Contributions:*

- Supported a significant increase in productivity levels by streamlining accounting processes.
- Prepared and delivered to management, under extremely quick turnaround timelines, accurate monthly, quarterly, and annual financial statements.

Blue Yonder Airlines – Addison, Illinois 1997 – 2000

**Accounting Technician**

Managed financial transactions and record keeping with strict attention to detail. Verified and posted transactions to general ledger. Reconciled and balanced accounts and computed interest rates. Compiled statistical reports for management. Generated monthly statements and invoices for customers. Communicated with customers to address inquiries and resolve issues.

*Key Contributions:*

- Improved processes for creating customer invoices, which reduced overall timeframe for receiving payments.
- Excelled within a fast-paced environment, continually taking on increased levels of responsibility.

Coho Vineyard – Addison, Illinois

1995 – 1997

**Assistant Bookkeeper**

Ensured accurate and timely processing of accounting data. Performed accounts receivable functions, balancing cash and posting sales invoices. Worked with accounts payable department to post invoices. Accurately entered transactions into proprietary company accounting system. Completed ad hoc assignments and analyses for managers and supervisors.

*Key Contributions:*

- Demonstrated ability for quickly learning new tasks and completing assignments ahead of schedule while maintaining a high degree of accuracy.
- Contributed substantially to reducing outstanding accounts receivables through improved collections processes.

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***EDUCATION***

**ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE IN ACCOUNTING**

STATE COLLEGE – Addison, Illinois

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# SHARON SALAVARIA

123 Main Street • Addison, Illinois 98109 • someone@example.com • 425.555.0139

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## **QUALIFICATIONS SUMMARY**

Highly personable **Customer Service Professional** with over eight years of experience in account management, claims and sales processing, and call-center operations within the travel, insurance, and entertainment industries.

- ◆ Talent for identifying customer needs and presenting appropriate company product and service offerings.
  - ◆ Demonstrated ability to gain customer trust and provide exceptional follow-up, leading to increased repeat and referral business.
  - ◆ Track record of assisting in the design and implementation of reporting procedures that reduce labor costs and improve customer-satisfaction ratings.
  - ◆ Expertise in resolving escalated customer service issues.
  - ◆ Secured numerous company achievement awards for delivery of exceptional customer service.
  - ◆ Proficient with Microsoft Office System (including Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint®, Microsoft Access, and Microsoft Outlook®).
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## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

BLUE YONDER AIRLINES – Addison, Illinois

**2000 to Present**

**CUSTOMER CARE LEAD**    *2001 to Present*

*Serve as Customer Care Lead for a major airline with flights to 204 domestic cities in 46 states as well as 42 international cities in 26 countries.*

Promoted to lead team of 15 employees in daily call center operations. Collaborate with Customer Care Manager to create strategic plans to enhance customer satisfaction. Provide employees with tools to maintain and increase service levels to both internal and external customers. Work closely with other departments to promote sales contests, clarify information, and distribute reports. Gather, analyze, and report daily/weekly/monthly sales and service statistics.

- Contributed to increasing Miles membership by 10% by assisting in execution of aggressive sales plans.
- Instrumental in improving customer-satisfaction ratings through suggestion, development, and implementation of new reporting procedures.
- Increased employee knowledge by assisting with development and implementation of product-awareness program.
- Enhanced employee performance and attendance through daily mentoring, one-on-one discussions and motivational strategies.
- Received outstanding positive comments from team members on employee reviews, as well as exceptional feedback from senior management.

**CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE** 2000 to 2001

Recruited to provide top-notch service to both internal and external customers. Processed airline ticket orders, answered questions, responded to concerns, and alleviated delicate situations with professionalism and sensitivity. Assisted Training Manager in creating and updating training materials. Prepared weekly reports for Customer Care Supervisor.

- Selected to coach and mentor new customer service representatives for opening of new call center.
- Achieved perfect score on all phone monitors throughout tenure.
- Received Customer Service Award for outstanding track record of positive customer feedback.

**HUMONGOUS INSURANCE – Addison, Illinois** 1998 to 2000

**CUSTOMER ADVOCATE**

*As Customer Advocate, handled claims processing for a leading insurance and financial services provider.*

Investigated and resolved customer concerns in collaboration with respective agency and other departments. Prepared written responses to Department of Insurance inquiries. Provided measurement on volume and trends to determine agency education needs and improve customer satisfaction and retention.

- Participated in implementing new paperless process, resulting in streamlined operations.
- Dramatically enhanced customer-satisfaction ratings by expediting all claims and ensuring a high degree of accuracy.

**GRAPHIC DESIGN INSTITUTE – Addison, Illinois** 1995 to 1998

**CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE**

*Served as Customer Service Representative for a not-for-profit corporation hosting local performing arts organizations, films, touring performers, and community events.*

Interfaced with customers to identify needs, field questions, and facilitate ticket sales. Provided show and venue information, completed monetary transactions, and resolved issues as needed. Coached and mentored new employees in customer-service processes and company policies.

- Played key role in reducing labor costs by recommending staff scheduling changes.
- Received numerous awards from senior management for consistently providing excellent service and tactfully resolving sensitive issues.

***EDUCATION AND TRAINING***

**ASSOCIATE OF ARTS IN GENERAL STUDIES • NATIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE – Addison, Illinois**

**Name**

Phone:

Email:

Cell:

**SUMMARY**

Human Resources Generalist with expertise in effectively managing Staffing, Redeployment and Diversity Projects designed to meet global business objectives. Business Partner that created, deployed and managed large-scale, long term global recruiting programs across diverse cultures and international time zones. Collaborative communicator that earned recognition for developing, mentoring and coaching human resources staff. Reputation for being ethical with the ability to make sound and logical decisions in dealing with complex issues.

**KEY QUALIFICATIONS**

- Recruiting/Staffing
- Diversity Initiatives
- Redeployment
- Project Delivery Focal
- Development/Coaching
- Employee Mediation
- Process Development
- Event Management
- Budget Controls

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**COMPANY, Glendale, AZ**

**2002-Present**

**DIVERSITY PROGRAM MANAGER, STAFFING**

**2006-Present**

Spearheaded Human Resources recruiting programs focused on meeting business requirements. Presented a diverse candidate pool of experienced professionals as a result of staging 16 commercial recruiting events. Created and implemented recruiting/staffing processes, sourcing roadmap including vendor management.

- Achieved increase of 500% in participation at recruiting events and secured internal funding by developing process and standards.
- Developed and implemented recruiting event processes including resume collection and categorization targeted to provide measurable data, including diversity results.
- Led automated hiring data initiative with email based capability to calculate event ROI.
- Initiated first virtual career chats in collaboration with two female Vice President's slated to present latest technical achievements to recruit experienced technical female candidates.

**PROJECT MANAGER, HUMAN RESOURCES**

**2002-2006**

Project Manager that met Operations Group's staffing goals. Planned, managed and implemented special projects including creating Internationalization Team's catastrophic event scenario response planning. Developed 3-Geography model to increase team effectiveness and efficient operations across Asia, Europe and the US.

- Eliminated legal risks in redeployment efforts that ensured employees received maximum benefits available and sensitively responded to employees' concerns.
- Created and managed hiring plan process and monthly job requisition approval process in collaboration with VP and Finance Controller. Achieved heightened diversity awareness by introducing diversity dashboard with stretch goals.
- Achieved significant time and cost savings by developing and implementing comprehensive electronic headcount review process with improved data integrity.
- Achieved 15% increase of acceptance rates for under-represented minority hires within Intern and Recent College Graduate Programs by coaching direct report.

### **Project Manager (continued)**

- Built time/cost savings decision making capability model including execution of key decisions/ business capabilities in dual locations.
- Directed 3-Geographies Program Best Known Method shared with 21+ groups resulting in improved communications, effectiveness and identified success competencies.
- Earned Intel Manufacturing Excellence Conference Diversity Award for 3 Geography Model which was showcased to Company Founder.

**COMPANY, City, State**

**1994-2002**

### **SENIOR HUMAN RESOURCE STAFFING MANAGER**

**1999-2002**

Provided HR support for 800 employees in a multiple site organization using performance based compensation reviews, manager/employee performance improvement coaching, organizational development consulting and training to drive efficient operating strategies.

- Fostered a healthy work environment, addressed employee concerns and coached managers on the development and implementation of action plans by designing and conducting climate assessments using diagonal slice approach.
- Effectively managed Voluntary Separation Program including sensitively, promptly and professionally negotiating "exception issues" promptly and professionally.

### **SENIOR STAFFING CONSULTANT**

**1994-1999**

Met dynamic hiring demands by forecasting, pro-actively planning and negotiating positive outcomes to complex senior management job offers with significant variables.

- Filled 600 job requisitions within one year with an increased offer acceptance rate to 81% by comparing total compensation package and career path opportunities.
- Traveled to new site start up in Costa Rica and provided training to local staffing team.
- Hired over 400 employees to support US factory ramp in four months.

## **EDUCATION**

**BS, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Global Staffing, Society for Human Resources Management

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Society for Human Resources Management, Member  
Society for Training and Development, Member

**NAME**

Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**SUMMARY**

Business Manager with a proven track record in all aspects of office administration. Expertise in statistical data and financial reporting, purchasing, budgeting, and documentation. Experience in customer relations, continuously exceeding internal and external customer metrics.

**KEY QUALIFICATIONS**

- Budgeting
- MS Office
- Contract Negotiations
- Administration
- Financial Reporting
- Statistical Data
- Relational Databases
- Inventory Control
- Customer Relations

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

**ADMINISTRATION**

- Provided professional staff support to Director, multiple Managers, Project Managers and Technicians.
- Provided departmental coordination of vehicle fleet maintenance and service including gas and electric powered vehicles.
- Coordinated and managed remodel of parts room resulting in increased security and improved access for loading and unloading of materials.
- Redesigned and implemented staff workspace using creative solutions considering space constraints for improved workflow and efficiency.
- Assigned and completed remodel and security implementation of ASU, University Technology Office cart parking area for multiple departments.

**CUSTOMER SERVICE**

- Coordinated and trained office support staff to provide an efficient service order processing and billing operation, expediting orders to appropriate technical staff when needed. This resulted in a high level of customer satisfaction.
- Played integral role in implementing a 'FASTRAK' line of service for basic data requests, resulting in next day turn around service for 20% of service requests.

**BUDGETING/ FINANCIAL REPORTING**

- Improved department's budget record keeping and audit trails allowing for more useful monthly expenditure/revenue reporting.
- Collaborated with department Director on yearly budget.
- Managed, tracked and provided account reports to Director and AVP for a twelve million dollar capital development program fund to upgrade computer networks at Arizona State University.

## **PURCHASING**

- Lead ASU Data Communications process conversion from an internal requisitions database to an enterprise purchasing system.
- Initiated and created a new inventory management process, reducing space utilization and staff time by 50%,.
- Played a lead role in writing of RFP for ASU Data Communications passive component bid.
- Maintained and provided accurate updates for tracking departmental orders.
- Monitored all departmental purchases for compliance with state contracts.

## **ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

- Redesigned department's accounts payable process resulting in a decrease of extraneous payments and late fees.
- Reconciled departmental and enterprise payment of invoices for data services which were inconsistent with existing services resulting in reduced monthly expenditures.
- Played a lead role in developing and implementing a new service request process resulting in accurate billing, increased revenue, reduced staff time, and a move toward a paperless process.

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

### **COMPANY, Phoenix, Arizona, 2002-Present**

Business Manager Senior, Office Specialist Senior

### **COMPANY, Tempe, Arizona, 1999-2001**

Operations Manager

### **COMPANY, Glendale, Arizona, 1998-1999**

Clerk

### **COMPANY, Scottsdale, Arizona, 1997-1998**

Teller

# COVER LETTERS

## TOP TEN COVER LETTER STRATEGIES

1. Be sure to communicate who you are in the very beginning of the letter. Are you an Administrative Assistant, Human Resources Representative, IT Professional, or Accountant? If someone has to read three paragraphs before they know what you do, they will simply move on to the next applicant. No one is going to take the time and energy to figure out your background. Imbed a table into your letter that directly compares your experience with the employer's requirements. (See examples.)
2. Use a professional and unique format to get people's attention. Make sure your letter is visually attractive and distinctive.
3. Emphasize your most relevant qualifications. Employers are seeking a 90-90% match. Highlight your skills, experiences, and qualifications that are directly relevant to the company's needs and the position.
4. Spotlight your most relevant achievements. Highlight your career successes, accomplishments and results that will be most meaningful to the intended audience.
5. Research information about the company or the position. Include any specifics about the company or the position (for example, core issues, challenges, market opportunities, services or management changes) and address those in your cover letter. Relate specifically how your background can meet the company's needs and provide solutions to its challenges.
6. Describe why you want to work for the company, which may include the company's financial standing, reputation, products, services or market potential? Everyone likes a "pat on the back". Company management is no different.
7. Present your letter as a business document in a business format, not as advertising materials. They should be neat, clean and well presented, attractive and relatively conservative.
8. Double-check, triple-check, and then have someone else check your letter to be sure that it is error-free. Your cover letter reflects the quality and caliber of the work you will do on their behalf. Even the smallest of errors is unacceptable.
9. Keep your cover letter to one page. It should be short and concise. However there are exceptions. Most academic institutions are a typical exception to this rule.
10. Be sure to ask for the interview. Securing an interview is your objective for each letter and let them know you will be following up with them regarding the status of your candidacy.

Name  
Address, Phone, Email

Date

Dear Mr. or Ms. \_\_\_\_\_:  
(If no name is available, use a Reference line:)  
**RE: (job title)**

Your ad for a Program Manager, Leadership Development on your website captured my attention. I have an extensive background working with organizations to develop employee and leadership bench strength and would like to be considered for the position. My qualifications are well matched to your needs as summarized below.

<b>Your Requirements</b>	<b>My Qualifications</b>
<i>Masters Degree in Business Administration, Human Resource Development, Education.</i>	Master's degree in Human Resources with a focus in Organization Change.
<i>A minimum of five (5) years of organizational development/leadership/training experience that includes design, implementation, program management, and measurement of Leadership Development Programs.</i>	Achieved business results with 7+ years experience in Organizational Development. Designed and implemented leadership development and coaching programs for Fortune 500 organizations resulting in increased employee motivation and satisfaction, retention, and effectiveness.
<i>Strong knowledge of career development, adult learning principles, training and development theories and techniques, and instructional design for the adult learner.</i>	Counseled/coached >500 clients at all employee levels including senior and c-level management in career transition and career development programs with a 95% client satisfaction rating. Instructed adults in graduate degree programs including classes in: Organization Change, Organizational Behavior, and Leadership Coaching including online learning programs. Designed and implemented successful training programs for employees and leaders.
<i>Experience developing and delivering educational modules in an e-learning environment.</i>	Successfully managed multiple learning programs including developing and implementing a learning and education center that included soft skills and technical training, CBT- self-paced training, facilitator-led, and e-learning programs, seminars, workshops and continuing education programs. Collaborated with universities to provide continuing education and degree programs for employee career development.
<i>Knowledge, Skills and Abilities in: Client consulting, Change management, Program development, Organizational effectiveness, Measurement and evaluation, Written/oral communication, Team development, Assessment and feedback, Instructional design, Operational planning, Staff coaching and performance management.</i>	Collaborated with senior leadership teams to design and implement 360 Degree Feedback programs and performance management systems. Successful increasing individual, team, and organizational performance by developing and implementing performance management/coaching programs. Accomplished productivity improvements, cost savings, and team effectiveness consulting with leadership teams of Fortune 500 companies.

I have the skills and experience to add value to your organization and achieve employee, leadership and organizational effectiveness. I look forward to further discussing my background and candidacy.

Regards,

Signature

Revised 4/14/2016

**LUPE REYNALDO**  
1804 N. 45<sup>th</sup> Street  
Phoenix, Arizona 85000  
602-999-1000  
pmccartney@earthlink.net

June 15, 2013

ABC Co.  
Human Resources  
P.O. Box 36644  
HDQ 12HR  
Dallas, Texas 75235

**RE: TRAINING INSTRUCTOR POSITION**

The recent ad on your web site for the Training Instructor position captured my attention. The requirements you seek are well matched to my experience.

**Your Requirements**

- College coursework or degree.
- Licensed Dispatcher with 3 years experience with a major carrier.
- Excellent people skills; team player. Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Demonstrate leadership skills in support of a large operational staff.

**My Qualifications**

- MS, Organization Change. BA, Business Administration.
- Licensed Dispatcher with 9 years of experience with a major carrier. Additional experience in ground operations and customer service management.
- Strong interpersonal communication skills. Honored with distinction on graduation thesis. Strong facilitator and instructor with over 20 years of experience in learning and development environments and educational arenas.
- Managed a 121 employee start-up operation with 6 supervisors and 100 employees that expanded to 22 supervisors and 600 employees over 2 years. Graduate, Global Leadership Program, Thunderbird, The American School of International Management.

Attached is my resume for your review. I believe the Training Instructor position will enable me to make significant contributions to your organization. I will call you next week to further discuss how I can add value to Southwest Airlines.

Sincerely,

Lupe Reynaldo

**Mark Barkley**  
3333 South 33<sup>th</sup> Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85033  
Charlesbarkely@earthlink.net  
602-333-3333

June 15, 2013

Michael Smith  
VP, State of Colorado  
University of Colorado  
33333 Park Meadow  
Denver, CO 83333

Dear Mr. Smith:

The ad posted on your web site for an Associate Campus/Division Director position captured my attention. I am very interested in a dynamic and successful organization such as The University of Colorado and wish to be considered for the position.

With the incredible growth experienced by your organization over the past several years and the commencement of the new adult university, your need for experienced, successful management administration is paramount. I believe I have the experience to assist you in managing your growth and succeeding in a fast-paced, competitive market.

I have experience managing large-scale operations with budgets in excess of \$25M and an extensive background in Management Consulting working with Fortune 100/500 organizations.

Some of my accomplishments that well match your requirements are:

- Developed marketing and sales strategies for major corporations to design 2-5 year plans to ensure organizational flexibility and viability.
- Consulted with Fortune 100 and 500 corporations to design and implement organizational strategies, goals and objectives, and performance management programs.
- Developed and implemented a strategic performance management program including a competency based broadband compensation approach, which increased individual, team and organizational effectiveness.

I would like to further discuss how I could add value to your organization. I will contact you next week to arrange a meeting.

Sincerely,

Mark Barkley

**Jennifer Martin**  
1021 South 110<sup>th</sup> Street  
Phoenix, Arizona 85000  
602-991-1000  
madonna@hotmail.com

May 20, 2013

Joe Schmo  
Human Resources Manager  
Cool Energy Company  
1521 S. Raintree Drive  
Tempe, AZ 85281

Dear Mr. Schmo:

Danny Miller, Director of Human Resources at American Express suggested I contact you regarding my interest in the current opening for the Human Resources Consultant position at Cool Energy Company.

Although Cool Energy has continually set the bar for providing efficient and cost-effective water and energy for the community and has developed the most progressive programs for alternative energy sources, the current deregulated energy environment challenges even the best of the best. To ensure Cool remains competitive, having adaptable, skilled and creative employees will be necessary.

With my extensive background in human resources consulting and employee coaching and development, I can assist your employees in planning and developing satisfying and challenging careers, as well as coach employees in career management. The following are my qualifications that are well matched for this position:

#### **YOUR REQUIREMENTS**

- Master's Degree in Counseling, Education, Psychology or related field.
- Minimum 5 years recent experience providing one-on-one coaching.
- Experience with assessment tools.
- Experience working with all levels of hourly and salaried employees.

#### **MY QUALIFICATIONS**

- MS in Organization Change. Graduate level educator and advisor.
- Over 15 years recent experience providing one-on-one coaching and instruction in the private sector.
- Certified in multiple assessment tools and processes.
- Experience coaching and working with employees from hourly to senior executive level employees.

Attached is my resume for your review. I believe the Consultant position will enable me to make significant contributions to your organization. I will call you next week to further discuss how I can add value to Cool Energy Company.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Martin

# INTERVIEWING TOOLKIT

A job interview is similar in many ways to a social conversation, but it requires more than just conversational skills. How well you do in a job interview will depend on how well you can articulate your accomplishments and qualifications as they relate to what the agency/hiring manager wants and needs.

The most important part of the interview is concluded before the interview even starts. Preparation is the key to success and that starts before you ever arrive at the interview session.

Recruiters and hiring managers are looking for “Fit” in three areas: skills and experience fit, cultural fit, and salary/compensation fit. So, you will need to be able to answer questions that reflect you’re fit for the job in these three areas.

## **Before the interview:**

### Understand the position

It is important to know what the hiring authority is seeking in a candidate. Review the job posting for requirements and job description. Job descriptions and requirements should be a good indication of the scope and responsibilities of the position; however, there is usually much more information if you can research further. To gather additional information you can use your network to discover needs, requirements and desires not listed in the job description.

### Know the agency, board or commission

It is important to show that you have researched the agency or department. This emphasizes your enthusiasm for the position and shows that you take initiative in gathering information. Again you can network or talk to someone who works there or use the internet for further information regarding the business, future projects, current challenges, and history. Use a search engine like Google to research the names of the people you are interviewing with. This may help you see what they are involved with. For example, Google “Joe Schmo – ADOT” and see if anything comes up.

### Know yourself

Know why you are the best candidate for the position. Brainstorm at least five reasons why you are a good fit, and then prepare examples that illustrate your reasons. See page 24 for instructions.

### Complete the Interview Preparation Matrix

Complete the Interview Preparation Matrix. This will provide you with detailed information regarding your matching skills, experience, and associated accomplishments. See page 25 for Matrix.

### Practice, Practice, Practice

The best way to ensure a successful interview is to practice. Practice the answers to commonly asked questions and behavioral interview questions. Schedule and complete a mock interview session. Practice will allow you to go into the interview session with confidence!

## Interview Preparation Worksheet

List 5 reasons why you believe you are the best candidate and give examples for each reason.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.



## THE MOST COMMON INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

### **Tell Me About Yourself?**

Although this seems like an innocent question with a simple answer, it is really a great opportunity for you to position yourself as the best candidate. You have been given a clean, blank canvas and can paint any picture you want. So, what picture do you paint? You want to provide an overview of your background related to the requirements of the job. This could include the industries, job functions, areas of expertise, competencies and of course accomplishments. This should be a 90 second to 2 minute answer and should be concise with key areas related to the position.

### **What Are Your Weaknesses?**

This is the one of the most difficult questions for interviewees. You should minimize your weakness and emphasize your strengths. Focus on professional traits vs. personal qualities: "I am always working on improving my communication skills to be a more effective presenter. I recently joined Toastmasters, which I find very helpful."

You should NOT use a weakness that is a core competency of the position for which you are interviewing. Choose something true, something that you have made progress in improving and one that does not raise questions about your ability to perform very well in the position.

You might approach the answer like, "Early on in my career, I had difficulty with presentation skills. I took several seminars on effective presentation and communications skills, as well as joining Toastmasters and now I see it as a strength." *Never use an interpersonal trait such as being a perfectionist, being impatient with people who do not pull their weight, etc. These can easily be misconstrued by interviewers and lead them to believing you would be hard to get along with.*

### **Why Should We Hire You?**

Summarize your experiences: You should provide an overview of your experience matching the requirements of the job. You might begin with your professional title, industry experience, work functions and some of the things you were able to accomplish. You might discuss your proven track record of saving the company money, and what a difference you made in your previous positions adding, "I'm confident I would be a great addition to your team."

### **Why Do You Want to Work Here?**

The interviewer wants to know that you are interested in their agency and are not sending out resumes indiscriminately. For example, "I've selected agencies whose mission statements are in line with my values, where I know I could be excited about what the agency does, and your company is very high on my list."

### **What Are Your Goals?**

Sometimes it's best to talk about short-term and intermediate goals since it might be difficult to discuss your distant goals. For example, "My immediate goal is to get a job in accounting where I can contribute to the goals of the organization. My long-term goal will depend on the direction and objectives of the agency; I would like to grow with them. I hope to eventually grow into a position of responsibility." Or, I would like to become successful and productive in my new position at ABC, and eventually take on additional roles and responsibilities in the area of xyz.

### **Why Did You Leave (Are You Leaving) Your Job?**

If you are employed, focus on what you want in your next job: "After two years, I made the decision to look for a place that is team-focused, where my experience will allow me to be productive immediately." You can also give specifics about people you know in that organization that have impressed you. You may also state that you are looking for an opportunity to grow or advance in a certain area or field and you believe this job would allow you that opportunity. If you're unemployed, state your reason for leaving in a positive manner: "I managed to survive two rounds of downsizing, but the third round was a 20 percent reduction in the workforce, which included me." Or, "As you might be aware, the State of Arizona is in a serious budget crunch and many of the agencies have been asked to consolidate their operations. My agency was one of those and as a consequence, my position and one hundred others have been affected in the past two years." End on a positive note: "However, I learned xyz and xyz at (agency name), and I believe that experience will directly apply to the position we are talking about today."

### **When Were You Most Satisfied in Your Job?**

The interviewer wants to know what motivates you. If you can relate an example of a job or project when you were excited, the interviewer will get an idea of your preferences. "I was very satisfied in my last job, because I worked directly with the customers and their issues; that is an important part of the job for me." THE INTERVIEWER MUST BE ABLE TO SEE YOU WORKING IN THEIR JOB! By telling stories and giving examples, this will happen.

### **What Can You Do for Us That Other Candidates Can't?**

What makes you unique? This will take an assessment of your experiences, skills and traits. Summarize concisely: "I have a unique combination of strong technical skills, and the ability to build strong customer relationships. This allows me to use my knowledge and break down information to be more user-friendly. A lot of my customers have told me they appreciate that." The "testimonial approach, where you let the interviewer know what your managers, customers or peers have said about you, works very well in an interview. Use it often!

### **What Are Three Positive Things Your Last Supervisor Would Say About You?**

You might want to review your old performance appraisals and boss's comments. Once again, this is a great way to brag about yourself through someone else's words: "My supervisor has told me that I am the best designer he has ever had. He knows he can rely on me, and he likes my sense of humor."

### **What Salary Are You Seeking?**

Some job positions list a range. Prepare by knowing your bottom line or walk-away point. One possible answer would be: "I am sure you pay competitively. I am willing to accept any fair and equitable offer. Then ask the interviewer: "In what range do you typically pay someone with my background?" If pressed, provide a \$10-15k range based on your research of what this position pays in the marketplace. You can research salaries on [www.salary.com](http://www.salary.com) at no charge. If you are applying to the state, the compensation rules apply.

## BEHAVIORAL INTERVIEWING

Behavior-based interviewing is based on the idea that *your past behavior is the best predictor of you future behavior*. These types of questions are presented in phrases like, "Tell me about a time when..." or "Give me a situation where you...." Interviewers want to hear about skills, functions or knowledge that you have that relates to the position you are applying for. In a survey done in 1996, 64% of responding employers stated that they use some form of behavioral interviewing.

When answering behavior-based questions think of situations or examples from your past experience that illustrate the skill or qualification the interviewer is asking about. Use the **STAR** technique to answer these questions.

**S** = State the situation

**T** = What was the task at hand

**A** = What was the action you took

**R** = What was the result of the situation or your action

This techniques helps to keep you focused and ensures that complete information was provided.

Before the interview, identify the 3-4 main skills that are required for the position. Then identify examples from your past that illustrate that you have those skills. The following are dimensions that are explored with behavioral based questions.

### **Oral Communication Skills:**

- Tell me about a time that you prepared and presented an oral program
- Give an example of a time when you had to use your verbal communication skills in order to clarify a point or resolve a situation

### **Written Communication Skills:**

- Describe the most significant written document/report/article that you have had to complete
- Tell me about your most enjoyable and least enjoyable written documents that you have had to produce.

### **Interpersonal Skills:**

- Describe a time that you had to modify your behavior in order to interact effectively with someone else
- Tell me about a time that you helped to motivate co-workers or subordinates.

### **Leadership Skills:**

- Tell me about a specific role you held, what was your management style; did you modify your behavior based upon team members; what was the purpose of the team; what action was taken; and what were the results?
- Describe a time that you had to influence the actions of others for a desired outcome.

### **Analytical/Technical:**

- Give me an example of a problem that you faced at work and how you resolved it.
- Tell me about a time that you had to use your fact-finding skills to gain information regarding a problem. How did you analyze this problem and find a solution?
- Describe the most creative problem solving techniques you have used.

**Flexibility/Adaptability:**

- Tell me about the most difficult work transition that you have had to make.
- Give me an example of a time that you had to change to adapt in the workplace.
- How have you positively changed in the workplace to adapt to your colleagues or supervisor?

**Organizational and Planning Skills:**

- Give an example of when you had to plan or organize a long-term project.
- Give an example of when you have used your organizational skills to improve your department or area.

**Initiative:**

- Give an example of when you took the initiative to suggest improvements to a process or area. What happened?
- Tell me about a time when you went above and beyond the call of duty.

**Motivation:**

- Give me an example of an important goal you set for yourself and how successful you were in reaching it.
- Tell me about a challenge you have faced in the past and how you resolved it.

The most important part of interviewing is knowing who you are and what you have to offer. This means that to be successful in an interview, you must assess and identify your skills and qualifications; understand your values and personality so that you can understand the environment that best suits your work style and preferences.

Secondly, know what the agency or department wants. What kind of skills do they need for the position, what is the department personality like (culture), how do the people in that department describe their own area.

## **SAMPLE QUESTIONS TO ASK THE INTERVIEWER**

1. Why is the position open?
2. If I were hired and in six months you looked back and said, "Wow, I'm glad I selected Joe!" what skills and traits would I have exhibited to cause you to say that?
3. To whom would I report?
4. Who would I supervise? How many direct/indirect reports?
5. What are some of the objectives you would like accomplished in the next two or three months?
6. What is most pressing? What objectives or standards would I be expected to meet or exceed?
7. What are the challenges a person would face in the first 3-6 months? What are the main issues that need attention in this position?
8. What are you personally looking for in a successful candidate? What capabilities do you feel are more important?
9. What significant changes do you foresee in the company/agency?
10. How is one evaluated? What accounts for success?
11. What are the critical factors for success in this position?
12. Where do you see the department going in the next few years?
13. How would you describe your management style?
14. How would you describe the organizational culture?
15. What are the next steps in the process? When can I expect to hear from someone regarding my candidacy?

## DURING THE INTERVIEW

- Start off like a winner. Offer your hand, and give a firm handshake, a pleasant smile and a positive confident attitude. Introduce yourself. *Remember, the smile is the best indicator of self-confidence in an interview! Smile often!*
- Be comfortable. Take a seat facing the interviewer, however, slightly off center. Be sure you are not facing into direct sunlight or some other uncomfortable situation.
- Listen attentively. Look at the interviewer directly, but don't get into a stare down! Sit up straight. Try to relax. It is okay to take a few notes if the questions are lengthy, or you need to remind yourself of something you want to stress. But generally, note taking breaks your connection with the interviewer.
- Avoid nervous mannerisms. Pay attention to nervous mannerisms you might have such as clicking your pen, jingling change in your pocket, twisting your hair, biting your nails, or moving side to side in your chair. Control these impulses! Everyone is nervous to some extent. The key is to appear calm and collected.
- Speak clearly. Use good grammar and a friendly tone. Never answer just "yes" or "no" to a question. Always clarify, expand on your answers. Be sure not to ramble on.
- Be positive and enthusiastic. You want to outshine all other candidates so "turn it on" during the interview! No matter how sterling your credentials are, you won't be hired if the interviewer isn't sold. Pump up your enthusiasm prior to the interview. Never complain about past employers, jobs, bosses, etc. Everything should have a positive spin.
- Ask pertinent questions. Be prepared to ask a few questions. Do not monopolize the interviewer's time, particularly if you know they have appointments scheduled following your interview. Do ask thoughtful questions. Don't ask about salary and benefits; this can be discussed when the company is definitely interested in you!

## AFTER THE INTERVIEW

- Say thanks. The next day write the interviewer a brief note or email reiterating your interest in the job. Spell his or her name correctly! *There is a sample of a Thank You letter on the next page.*
- Follow up. If you haven't heard from the interviewer within the time frame indicated at the close of the interview, call them to relay a polite reminder that you're still interested in the job. Ask when they plan to make a hiring decision.
- If you aren't hired... If you continue to be interested in the agency, it pays to keep in touch with the interviewer. Often, through persistence, you may be offered a position at a later date.
- You may also want to send the hiring manager a letter after the turndown. State that you know they made the best decision, but you still believe you are a great fit for the job. List some of your skills, experience and accomplishments that back up what you are saying and add: "if for some reason, their candidate does not work out or you have another position that fits your background, please give me a call." Chin Up. Gear up for your next interview. After all, the more interviews you tackle the more polished you become. Remember, every time you get a turn down, you are now one closer to the job you actually will get! Try not to take it personally – believe that things will work out as they are meant to be.

**Sample Thank You-**  
**YOUR NAME**  
**Your Email & Phone Number**

Date

Name

Title

Company

P.O. Box 123

City, State Zip

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

Just a brief note to express my thanks and tell you how much I enjoyed the time we spent discussing your need for a \_\_\_\_\_.

There is little doubt in my mind that the position we discussed and the opportunity it offers would be challenging, exciting and a great fit with my extensive background in \_\_\_\_\_ . The following are some of my recent accomplishments that meet your needs:

- (put your related accomplishments here vs. skills-you should have 3 or 4. If you have not written accomplishments, bullet your experience related to the major requirements of the position.
- Accomplishment
- Accomplishment
- Accomplishment

I welcome the opportunity to answer any additional questions you might have and will follow up with you later this week. I look forward to the possibility of becoming a part of your team.

Sincerely,

Your Name

# JOB SEARCH METHODS & STRATEGIES

There are four primary methods for finding your next position.

**Published: Open Ads:** You can locate open positions in newspapers, professional journals, professional association websites, company websites, and Internet job boards. The success rate for open ads is about **20%** with Internet job boards gaining in popularity. Some of the most popular Internet job boards are:

[www.monster.com](http://www.monster.com)

[www.careerbuilder.com](http://www.careerbuilder.com)

[www.jobing.com](http://www.jobing.com)

[www.indeed.com](http://www.indeed.com) (This site pulls from most of the other job boards.)

## **Placement Agencies, Search Firms & Contract Firms:**

Placement agencies typically work with candidates earning below \$50,000, where as search firms work with candidates earning \$50,000 and above. Contracting or interim search companies work with candidates who are compensated hourly, daily, monthly, and annually and are usually referred to as temporary employment agencies. The success rate of this method is about **10-15%**.

When working with a search firm or agency, you need to be very specific and focused on what kind of job you are seeking, and be a good match for any positions for which they are recruiting. The odds of getting a recruiter to respond after sending a resume are pretty slim; therefore, you should focus on and apply for only positions that are a 90% match.

Contracting and temporary firms are an excellent option for short-term employment. You may need to find a short-term solution until you find the right position. This option provides a great opportunity to try out a position you are interested in before you take a permanent job. Temporary or contracting jobs also turn into permanent positions if the company is pleased with your work. The “try before you buy” concept is used increasingly by companies, especially during challenging economic times.

**Be careful with agencies and search firms. Make sure you are not contacting a marketing company. These organizations want you to pay for their assistance. YOU SHOULD NEVER PAY ANYONE TO GET YOU A JOB. Fees should be paid by the hiring company, not the candidate.**

**Networking:** Networking is the most successful means of getting a new position. Networking means talking with people you currently know to connect to people you do not know. Your goal is to meet new people and increase your network. The success rate for networking is between **60-80%**.

When networking you are seeking information, advice, ideas, names and referrals. You should never ask someone for a job. This tends to make people defensive, plus the job they may offer you may not be the one you want. This would not be a pleasant situation to be in since you asked for a job, hence the information and advice. Your goal is to get referrals from your current network that will lead to new contacts until you make the connection with the right person, at the right time, for the right job.

**Targeting:** Research the agencies in your area of interest. Make a list of the top 15-20. Use your networking to gather additional information about the agency, and get referrals to people who work there. Use your networking skills to discuss opportunities, cultural fit, or problems the agency is experiencing from internal people. Many times employees are paid referral fees if they refer someone who is eventually hired, so there may be an incentive to help you get into the organization. Although targeting in itself may not have the best success rate, when utilized with networking, it is very successful.

The key is to employ all four of the techniques for finding your next job. However, you will want to spend the majority of your time using the most successful methods.

Remember these pointers when conducting a job search:

- Fear is a powerful emotion, but not a long-term, productive one. When you are feeling fearful, take steps to do something about your situation. Talk to a supportive friend, counselor or your Career Center staff. Job search can be difficult but often we make it harder than it needs to be by our resistance to the process.
- Take care of your health! If your health goes, the job search really doesn't matter anyway. You will be having a new start soon – so prepare by being proactive with your health. Pay attention to these eight facets of health management. Following these principles can help you present yourself in the most positive manner and will assist you with your self-confidence and outlook. Remember, soon you will be having a NEWSTART!

N utrition  
E xercise  
W ater  
S unshine  
T emperance  
A ir  
R est  
T rust

- Learn from the journey of career transition. Whether you are initiating this job change or the decision was unwelcome, there is much to discover as you transition. Take the time to truly become aware of your strengths, accomplishments and goals. You are a valuable asset!