

Fulcrum Search Science Inc.

SEEKER MYTHS



As those of you who recently begun looking for new employment already know, there is no shortage of job hunting advice to be found. It seems that everyone you meet has an opinion on how to increase your chances of landing that dream job. So how do you separate the good advice from the bad? The helpful from the hurtful? The truth from the myth?

To help out, here are 5 common "untruths" and why you shouldn't always believe what you hear:

Myth #1: A resume should be no more than 2 pages long.

The key to a good resume is not how long it is, but the content. For some with limited experience, a one page resume is perfect. For others, 3 pages may be required. What is important is that regardless of the number of pages, the employer must still be able to read the key points quickly and clearly without getting caught in a verbal clutter.

Myth #2: Sending a resume by mail is the best way to have it seen.

Emailed resumes are now the method of choice. Most employers have grown accustomed to checking their email on a regular basis and most likely have a contact management system in place to track electronic resumes, so you're making it easy for them. Sending a resume using email also reflects computer literacy, something which almost all employers look for. Remember however, to always bring a paper copy of your resume to interviews.

Myth #3: A flashy, gimmick resume has the best chance of getting noticed.

Although this may be true to some extent, you want to make sure your resume is being noticed for the right reasons. Most employers are looking for professional, polished individuals - your resume should reflect this.

Myth #4: Asking questions during an interview will be interpreted as being difficult or unprepared.

Bringing 3 or 4 good, intelligent questions to an interview can actually reflect well on you. It demonstrates an enthusiasm and interest in the opportunity and employer. Avoid questions that you could easily have answered by doing your homework in advance.

Myth #5: Always keep a "poker face" during an interview - you don't want to seem too enthusiastic.

Although you don't want to come across as desperate, an employer is going to want someone who is excited about the opportunity. If they don't feel that you have the passion for the job and their company, they probably won't hire you.

by Paul O'Reagan