

Unit

1

Career Planning





Viewing



The Fantasy, the Ideal, and the Reality of Career Exploration

About the video clip

This video clip introduces the process of job exploration, which is hard, messy and complicated.

Understanding the video clip

The following statements describe John's job-hunting experience, but they are out of order. Please put them into the correct chronological order.

1. John is happily employed as a Senior Patent Agent at a biotech company.
2. John narrowed his choices of career to three, namely, a management consultant, a medical science liaison, and a medical writer.
3. John met with a career counselor and took a self-assessment test.
4. In order to be a patent agent, John started reading and talking to people again.
5. John got no interviews though he had applied for numerous jobs.

6. John took a regulatory writing course, which cost him 2,500 dollars.
7. John gave up the choices of being a consultant and medical science liaison successively.
8. John followed the suggestion of taking the patent bar and finally succeeded.

Further thoughts

Nowadays, more and more young people are leaving school and unable to find jobs after graduation. What do you think are the reasons? What suggestions will you offer to the job-hunters?

Reasons for unemployment	Suggestions for job-hunters
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
...	...





Banked Cloze

There is a passage with ten blanks. You are required to select one word for each blank from the list of choices given in a word bank following the passage. Read the passage carefully before making your choices. Each choice in the bank is identified by a letter. Please write the corresponding letter for each item in the blanks. You may not use any of the words in the bank more than once.

A Great New Job Is Just a Click Away¹

NW: 255 **GL:** 8.1 **AWL percentage:** 5.06% **Keywords:** Internet; job; unemployment

The Internet has made it much easier to find 1.____, but the number of candidates applying has quadrupled.

Our new Zoom reality has taught us all the importance of a(n) 2.____ Internet connection. It isn't just crucial to the way many of us do our current jobs; it's also how we find new ones.

In the old days, a peasant could only expect their cousin's cousin to know about a decent job in a(n) 3.____ village. But the interweb makes it much easier to find vacancies offering the type of work we're after. That should mean better matches, with more workers finding the right jobs, so they stick at them, become more 4.____ and earn more. That's

¹ From The Guardian website.

been the view of economists, with research on Norway broadband rollout, for example, finding that it led to higher wages and significantly lower 5._____.

But a new study on Germany challenges this, finding no 6._____ on the quality of job matching from the recent 7._____ of high-speed Internet. The problem? Fast Internet means we all get a better idea of what jobs are out there, and the unemployed do find work more 8._____. But the ease of applying online results in a quadrupling of 9._____ for every job. This problem has probably grown as online recruitment has become the norm. We should have seen this coming. The Internet 10._____ teaches us that we can have too much of a good thing and that the peasants always knew a bigger haystack made it harder to find the needle.

A) neighboring	B) candidates	C) productive
D) challenging	E) vacancies	F) Internet
G) decent	H) unemployment	I) quietly
J) repeatedly	K) effect	L) impact
M) quickly	N) peasants	O) spread





Long Passage

You are going to read a passage with ten statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter. Please answer the questions by writing the corresponding letter after the statements.

What Every College Student Should Be Doing for Career Success²

NW: 873 GL: 9.9 AWL percentage: 6%

Keywords: college student; career success; planning

A There are different types of college students: the ones who spend their years locked away in the library, the ones who leave everything to the last minute, the ones who spend more time socializing than studying, the ones who split their time between work and the classroom, the ones who do either one of the above things and the ones who try to do them all.

B With all these experiences college comes with, preparing for the future from the first day may not be a priority. And by this, I mean the post-graduation life. I know

² From Forbes website.

I didn't start thinking about it until my sophomore year. In retrospect, I should've probably started planning sooner. But since I can't undo the past, I can only share what I've learned and help someone in the situation I was in.

C If possible, every college student should start planning for the future early. This means being involved on campus and staying in the know of what's happening, networking with professors and going after professional experiences—this is all in addition to studying and acing your classes of course. Doing this can be the difference between many job offers by the time it's graduation season and a long period of unemployment or underemployment. As a college student, you want to stay on top of what needs to be done to create a positive outcome.

D McGraw-Hill Education's³ Future Workforce Survey revealed some interesting (and in some cases, troubling) statistics about recent graduates.

E **College graduates don't feel well-equipped to face the real world.** Only 4 in 10 US college students feel very or extremely prepared for their future careers. Women were less confident in their career readiness. Many reported feeling like their college experience did not provide the critical skills they need to transfer into the workforce, such as solving complex problems (43%), resume writing (37%), interviewing (34%) and job searching (31%).

F **There's a gap between student and employer perceptions.** 77% of students reported feeling confident in their professionalism, work ethic, teamwork and collaboration skills, while employers felt less enthusiastic—according to the recent NACE⁴ Job Outlook Study. In fact, only 43% of them feel recent grads are proficient in these areas.

G **More experience helps with confidence and career readiness.** More than half of the students surveyed said increased access to internships and other professional experiences would have helped them feel better prepared.

H You may find these findings scary or motivating (I hope it's the latter). While for the most part, they point to a grim post-college reality, there is something you can do for a better outcome. Yes, you can take control from this point forward and make the most out of your college experience—for better job prospects and career opportunities after graduation. Use these tips to formulate your action plan:

I **Take advantage of your campus career resources.** Are you a regular visitor of

3 McGraw-Hill Education: 麦格劳·希尔教育公司是一家对学校提供教育软件、服务和内容的美国公司。由 James H. McGraw 和 John A. Hill 于 1888 年成立。

4 NACE: National Advisory Committee on Electronics (美国) 国家电子顾问委员会

your college career center? If not, you're part of the 40-something percent of students surveyed who reported not taking advantage of it. And if that's the case, you should start. From job fairs, career advisors to resume support and internships, there are so many campus career resources available. As a student, you need to be proactive in finding and using them.

J It wasn't until the start of my sophomore year that I discovered my school's career center. I took advantage of the many different workshops they offered (resume building, cover letter writing, interviewing, networking, etc.) and it was a game-changer for my early career. From this I gained the skills to land more than four internships and volunteer at a nearby university—all before my senior year. This helped me feel so much more prepared for the real world after graduation.

K **Actively look for professional opportunities.** Whether it be a season job, internship or volunteer gig⁵, take every opportunity you come across to develop the skill set you'll need in the future. Finding these jobs will often require a proactive approach combined with patience, so carve out some time to do the work. Connect with other students to form a supportive network where you'll encourage each other.

L In this highly competitive landscape, come up with creative ways to stand out in the job search. Maybe you'll develop an app to apply for a tech internship or send a physical toolbox of your resume for a job at Home Depot⁶ (yes, this actually happened). Keep in mind, it doesn't have to be something so out of the ordinary in order to get hired. Bringing some originality and creativity to the job search certainly helps your chances though.

M **Create your own opportunities.** Don't limit yourself to internships or traditional jobs to acquire the experience you'll need when you join the workforce. Especially if these opportunities aren't coming your way. In this digital age, anyone can start a successful venture with a few clicks and a good WiFi connection. Whether you start a blog, launch a photography business or take an online coding/marketing course, use part of your free time to give yourself opportunities with the same gains (more experience). This is the key to not only practicing leadership, managing your time, connecting with new people, but also (and most importantly) honing a set of skills.

1. More than half of employers think college graduates are not proficient in professionalism and collaboration skills. ☐

5 volunteer gig: 临时的志愿者工作

6 Home Depot: 美国家得宝公司, 全球领先的家居建材用品零售商, 业务遍布美国、加拿大、墨西哥和中国等地区, 连锁商店数量达 2234 家。

2. Internships and professional experiences are regarded as helpful to build up confidence. ☐
3. Students should make full use of the resources available on campus. ☐
4. Some college students value studying than anything else. ☐
5. The present digital age can help students start up their own businesses. ☐
6. Besides studying and acing classes of course, college students should often communicate with professors. ☐
7. About 60% of college students feel unprepared for their future career, especially female students. ☐
8. Students are encouraged to develop the skill set for the future by doing season jobs. ☐
9. I feel regretful that I didn't plan my career earlier. ☐
10. Although post-college reality is stern, you can prepare as early as possible for a better outcome. ☐





Short Passages

There are two passages in this part. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each passage there are four choices marked A, B, C, and D. You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter.

Passage one

How to Build a Successful Business⁷

NW: 383 **GL:** 10.2 **AWL percentage:** 5.88% **Keywords:** business; management; flywheel

If you are looking for a flourishing industry, consider management books. Since starting its column, Bartleby⁸ has been buried alive by examples of the genre. Get it right, and there is a lot of money to be made. *Good to Great* by Jim Collins was one of the most successful; all told he has sold more than 10m books. His latest is a monograph, *Turning the Flywheel*, which builds on a concept from his most famous work.

The idea is that of a virtuous circle, where success in one era leads to success in another, in a self-sustaining fashion. Mr. Collins starts with Amazon, where low prices attract customer visits, which attracts third-party sellers, allows the company to expand,

⁷ From The Economist website.

⁸ Bartleby: 美国一个以收藏经典参考书、诗歌、小说为主的网站，提供大量免费的电子图书。