Tips to Get Your First Job

As a teenager, looking for your first part time employment can seem like a daunting task. Let's face it, finding a job is hard to begin with. But when you haven't had any experience in a workplace, have never been through an interview, and don't know where to start in writing a resume, the task can seem impossible. So, here are some tips for getting your first job!

Put Together a Simple Resume

First, having a resume to give to the prospective employer shows you’ve put some effort into finding a job. Secondly, it allows you to showcase those things about you that you want the employer to remember.

Appearance Matters

Be sure when you head out the door, that you are well groomed and well dressed. Be professional, first impressions are very important.

Get a List of Places to Apply

Browse the internet or local newspaper to find potential job openings. Also, as you look for job openings make sure you create a list of places that interests you. No sense in working somewhere you are not interested in. Put on your list of places anywhere that you think would be fun to work, and go get that job.

Network

Use your personal contacts to assist you in finding your first job. People who know you personally usually will give you a chance for first time employment or help you get in contact with someone else that may be fit for you and your abilities.

Stand Up Straight and Be Mature

Not to sound like your parents, or anything, but. . .go to each of the employers on your list of places you would like to work, walk in the door, and ask for that job. Keep your head up, maintain eye contact, have a firm handshake, and be confident. Employers look for certain qualities when a jobseeker walks in the door.

Best of luck as you go looking for a job as a teenager. Be persistent and do not get discouraged if you don’t get the first job you apply for. Be prepared and practice interviewing skills and be yourself.

“I never had a job in my life that I was better than. I was always just lucky to have a job. Every job I had was a stepping stone to my next job and I never quit my job before I had my next job.” - Ashton Kutcher