



90 Things To Do Before you Join the Real World

By: Lindsey Pollak

### **Get Started**

1. Start Wherever You are
2. Know the numbers
3. Avoid the biggest mistake in career prep and job hunting
4. embrace your stereotype
5. overcome your stereotype
6. get organized
7. don't ignore the obvious
8. subscribe to a daily newspaper
9. scout out your neighborhood
10. use your helicopter

### **Stop Being a Student and Start Being a Professional**

11. Upgrade to grown up contact methods
12. email like a professional
13. get carded
14. clean up your internet image
15. shine online
16. become an industry expert

### **Figure out what you want ... and what you don't**

17. start a really big list
18. get rid of the "shoulds"
19. Don't be caught "hitchhiking": Assess Yourself
20. Explore a passion
21. Put money into perspective
22. declare a take yourself to work day: Job shadow
23. LearnAboutCareers.com
24. Consider a coach

25. hero worship
26. seek a mentor
27. Relax. A job is not a soul mate

**Talk. Listen. Repeat. (I.e. Network)**

28. Talk. Listen. Repeat.
29. Be Able to Introduce Yourself
30. Network with your neighbors
31. set up informational interviews
32. make the most of informational interviews
33. become an active alum ... even before you graduate
34. associate
35. connect with diversity
36. work some new rooms
37. make every networking event a success
38. nix these networking event no-no's
39. be the first to follow up
40. keep in touch

**Gain real work experience**

41. be a leader
42. be a joiner
43. intern ... early and often
44. practice the eight essentials of internship achievement
45. temp
46. volunteer
47. skip Daytona
48. be superstrategic about part time work
49. put out your own shingle
50. GOTV
51. go global
52. fail

**Give your self an edge**

53. minor in something majorly helpful
54. keep learning
55. study china
56. be a winner
57. present
58. take a physical challenge
59. perform five minutes of stand up
60. have a hobby
61. walk backward
62. watch the top ten greatest American movies of all time
63. open you r mouth and say "OM"

**Market yourself on paper**

64. Make Over Your Resume
65. put your resume through the wringer
66. craft impressive cover letters

67. create a brag book

**Find Opportunities**

68. Follow Every Rainbow

69. Take Candy from Strangers

70. Think Beyond “Working for the Man”

71. Look Up the best

72. Consider You.gov

73. Work to change the world

74. Tackle a Project

75. Look Online

76. Think “And,” not “Or”

**Over prepare for Interviews**

77. Conduct company research

78. know your value

79. figure in work-life fit

80. buy a dark suit

81. take your elbows off the table

82. mock interview

83. never, ever, ever arrive late to a job interview

84. be nice to the receptionists

85. go with the flow

86. be available

87. persist

**Before you head off into the real work**

88. ask for help when you need it

89. become a lifelong expert on finding your own bliss

90. Don’t curb your enthusiasm

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# Career Center

[careercenter@indianatech.edu](mailto:careercenter@indianatech.edu)