

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 you 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 your 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