

[Key points are extensively modified with my own experience and insight!]

What to Do When Your First Job Isn't a Good Fit

Kathryn Dill, Wall Street Journal

6/28/20

- ✓ Dream jobs are hard to come by these days, with the economic downturn and COVID virus.
- ✓ Can't "hold out" when hiring is paused, and existing workers are furloughed.
- ✓ College majors in fields that are "non essential" could be worthless.
- ✓ Summer internships are mostly shelved.
- ✓ Imperfect jobs still provide benefit to hone skills and network with people "in the business."
- ✓ Your first job does not or will not be your "forever job."
- ✓ [This article appeared skewed to people whose "end-all" job was in DC working in government or politics. Most of us do not aspire for this kind of job.]
- ✓ Graduating in a recession will set you back. Harder to get a job. Lower pay (2.5% lower). You'll have to work out of the hole. It'll be much worse with a lot of student debt.
- ✓ Even in a perfect world, your dream job may not be what you thought it would be. There's the added problem of work culture.
- ✓ Take the opportunity in a non-fitting job or in a less than thriving environment to squeeze what you can out of the opportunity. Add to your suitcase of skills. Ask questions. Investigate areas that might be a better fit. Your second job is teeing up your third job.
- ✓ People hire people. 80% of jobs are won by referral.
- ✓ There'll be an adjustment period in any new job. Stay 9-12 months.

Workers Reinvent Themselves After Jobs Vanish in Pandemic

Kathryn Dill and Lauren Weber, Wall Street Journal

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- ✓ You can't count on being rehired.
- ✓ You'll have to think long and hard about what skills will be valued going forward.
- ✓ Flexibility and adaptability is key.
- ✓ You almost need to start over as the virus has changed the mindsets of hiring managers and business leaders.
- ✓ You've got to dig deep for some core skill and new skill that can be marketed.
- ✓ If you've got a BA or BS in anything, be strategic with tacking on education. It may be on-line classes or other sources of instruction. There's a plethora of instruction opportunities to choose from.
- ✓ Adaptability may be your best attribute. A baseball "utility player" as it were.
- ✓ Engineers can use their foundational engineering instruction as a platform for redesigning their career paths. They may find retooling the easiest.
- ✓ It may not be time to be picky about the city you live in.
- ✓ Bottomline, you can't wait for jobs to come back.
- ✓ If your job has disappeared, pinch yourself. You haven't. What made you indispensable? Your core traits are important enough to be useful to someone else. You can pick up the lingo and knowledge as you go.

[I went from commercial and real estate lending to environmental assessment. Within one year I had picked up the knowledge base to do my job. It comes quickly for serious workers excited to be employed again or in a new setting.]

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