

Foreword

Too bad we only live once. Among the many benefits of a second lifetime, one would be to know ahead what we'd face in the working world. If you already lived through a 40-year career once you would know much better what you like or not to do, what college degree or vocational training to take, what social and team skills to develop, and know what career choices matter to you for an ideal second lifetime.

Of course, that second-time-around life is fantasy. However, even if you let life take you like a tire tube floating on a stream, chances are you will do fine. Living for the moment and letting external forces dictate your adventure of earning a living is what some will choose. It is the easiest way to go but the outcome is a game of chance.

However, if you choose to prepare for and proactively pursue desired outcomes, you are getting into the prediction business. The better model you can construct of your future working situation, it becomes more likely you will have greater peace of mind with your decisions about career choice, know what skills to learn or sharpen, and lay out a winning approach to achieving your goals.

This book is designed to help you model your possible career future by providing working-world realism and identifying factors you wouldn't likely know to consider. My advice to many I mentored directly has been validated by their success and stated appreciation (see Appendix A Mentee Endorsements). This book collects all aspects of advice I'd offer to students and young professionals if they ask.

For example, you might think, "Isn't sending my resume to a job-finding website all I need to do? Reality: Picture the potential employer that never met you sorting through 25, 50, 100, or 500 resumes... is yours going to beat 500 others to become a finalist?" Virtually all top jobs will go to someone that found a way for personal interaction before submitting a resume.

I am not a professional author who has spent his career writing "how to" books. Instead I spent 40+ years hands-on experiencing all aspects of the working world and mentoring winners.

A minority of young people know what they would like to do for a living. Wanting a "dream job" is nice if it motivates you to do the homework necessary to learn how to land a job and how to make yourself valuable in those early years. If you make the effort to do the work this book suggests, your ability to predict an acceptable future work life will be higher than otherwise. Right now the average student or beginning professional doesn't know what to expect and some don't realize it is possible with effort to confidently predict job suitability/unsuitability before taking the job.