

HELLO REAL WORLD! For the Mentor Quarterly February 2006

Hello!

Since this is the first ever installment, please provide comments on what you like and what you'd like to see in the next issues.

I'd like to focus on two topics: investments and success in school. Even if you are not skilled at investments or did not enjoy success in school, you understand fundamentally what each entails.

Investments => you put something in now; you get something out later.

Tip 1. Encourage students to put time into gaining work experience now to set themselves up for a happier career later. February/March is ideal time for students to ramp up the job hunt. Part 2 of HELLO REAL WORLD! <www.hellorealworld.com> takes you through this process

Tip 2. If you're mentoring a student who has accepted an offer but is waiting for work to commence, encourage the student to take measures for a smooth transition. Parts 3 and 4 of HELLO REAL WORLD! <www.hellorealworld.com> will get students ready for work with tips on dialoguing with their boss and a discussion of real world surprises.

Success in School => taking it seriously (homework, studying, and exams)

Tip 3. Since finding a job is like going to school, you're in luck because you and the student are familiar with the process of doing well in school whether in theory or in practice. If you mentor a good student, reassure him or her that reapplying the discipline in which s/he approaches books to the job search will serve him or her well. If you mentor a not so good student, then encourage him or her to take the job search much more seriously than he or she treats school.

Here's an excerpt from the introduction to Chapter 7: The 4-Unit Process: Treat This Like a Class!

"If you take the job hunt seriously, you can expect to put in some long hours. Many of my peers would agree that the search for an entry-level position (and often that junior-year internship) is more time-consuming than a four-unit class. The job hunt is a lot like school in many respects. You need to do your research on companies and prepare for your interactions with company representatives. You need to do your homework in preparing your resume and studying for your interviews. Plan to spend several hours each week researching companies, doing homework, and studying. Instead of working towards that grade, you are working towards an offer. You can win bonus points by writing professionally and impressing professionals with your respectful persistence and charm." (HRW, p 39)

Success in Job Hunt => taking it seriously (researching the company, preparing for interviews, and interviews)

Best wishes!
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