

Career Headlines

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Career Solutions Publishing

We've Had Your Career On Our Minds

Welcome to *Career Headlines* for 2017. We've worked hard over the summer to prepare lessons that will give you a head start on the career you want—a career that brings in the dollars you desire and provides the excitement and professional fulfillment you deserve. Let's get started by looking at a few of the questions you may have about work and some of the realities and myths surrounding those questions.

Questions

What will be expected of me on the job?

What training will I receive?

What about my expectations for the company that hires me?

What skills and abilities are most important?

The Realities

You will be expected to be productive starting the first day, competing small tasks anyone in your field should be able to handle. Then you will move on to more complex tasks each day after that.

Learn-as-you-go training is the most common, often with a supervisor or experienced coworker guiding you as time allows from the other person's schedule.

Within limits, companies will consider your individual wishes, but you will need to adjust your expectations to fit the company's goals or take a job with a different company.

Research by Harvard University, Carnegie Foundation, and Stanford University concluded that **85%** of job success comes from strong soft skills, and only **15%** of job success comes from technical skills and knowledge, known as "hard skills."

The Myths

Before being assigned actual tasks, you will be given several days of a light schedule to learn about the company and the work you will do.

The company will provide several days of targeted training that explains your work in great detail. (A few companies still follow this pattern, but intense training is mostly a thing of the past, especially in smaller companies.)

Companies realize that expectations of young workers today may be different from those of prior generations. They change their policies to accommodate younger workers.

Exceptional skills in accounting, engineering, carpentry, the technologies and other fields are what get you hired, keep you employed, and gain you promotions. These skills are more important than the soft skills.

Action: Do any of the realities and myths surprise you? What is the message from the realities and the myths?

Note to teachers: *Job Ready Career Skills* is our well-respected, widely-used curriculum that prepares your students in the soft skills they need for career success. Click on the *Job Ready Career Skills* logo to see sample lessons.

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