RÉSUMÉS, COVER LETTERS & REFERENCES

TIPS & STRATEGIES



RÉSUMÉ WRITING: GETTING STARTED

First impressions count! Your résumé may be the first impression made to a potential employer or person in your network. It is a key marketing tool. Employers will spend **only 10-15 seconds** reviewing your résumé, so you must be clear and concise. The goal is to accurately show the "fit" between your skills and experiences and what the employer needs (look closely at the position description).

STEP 1

Before writing your résumé, it is critical for you to answer the following questions:

- Who will be reading my résumé?
- What skill sets and qualifications are they looking for in my résumé?
- How can I demonstrate, through specific examples, my skills and experiences?

STEP 2

Tailor your résumé for each position/company to which you are applying. Conduct thorough research to understand what is important to them and what value you offer them.

STEP 3

Employers are interested in your transferable skills. These are skills you can carry, or transfer, with you to various jobs. Develop a list of your accomplishments, skills, and personality characteristics. This will help you match your skills and abilities to the position requirements. Transferable skills demonstrate to the employer your range of abilities. Examples include:

Communication (verbal and written)

Critical thinking

Problem-solving

Leadership

Coordinating with Others

Multicultural Understanding

Creativity

Emotional Intelligence

Try the following exercise to document your skills while providing examples that showcase where you demonstrated these qualifications.

Skills desired by target employer/industry/graduate school	Specific examples from your experience
Example: attention to detail.	Example: Demonstrated strong attention to detail while revising, editing and distributing a leadership manual for service trip members.

CHECKLIST FOR AN EFFECTIVE RÉSUMÉ

Do NOT use a template. Start with a blank document. This will be easiest to customize		
and edit.		
Font – Calibri or Cambria; nothing smaller than 10-point font and .5 inch margins.		
Length - one page, typically. Talk with a career coach if you're having difficulty keeping it to		
one page.		
Demonstrate your <u>FIT</u> for the position and employer's needs.		
Showcase your strengths and transferable skills as they relate to the position.		
 Target the most <u>relevant</u> and <u>transferable skills and accomplishments</u>; 		
incorporate experiences such as internships,		
study abroad or international travel, research,	Bring your résumé to the Career and Professional	
part-time jobs, volunteer work, involvement in	Development Center duri	
student or community organizations, leadership	Drop-In Hours to have it reviewed by a career coac	
experience, significant class projects, etc.	Check the CPDC's websit	
Organize information well with bullet points under each	for days/times!	
experience for easy scanning and visual appeal.		
Use consistent font and grammar.		
Error-free; contains correct grammar and punctuation.		
Printed on quality résumé paper and saved as a PDF for emailing.		
Presents a professional image.		
Uses compelling action verbs and "buzz words" (See appendix for	sample list of verbs).	
Displays action-oriented and results-oriented bullet points under each experience.		
Avoids personal pronouns and lengthy paragraphs.		
Proofread it and ask several individuals, including a career coach in the CPDC, to do so.		
NO high school information, unless you are a first-year student OR you're applying for a		
job at your former high school.		
NO references; this should be a separate document.		
Further help may be found at: https://www.udacity.com/courses/career		

RACHEL KHAN

(717) 796-0000

rk1147@messiah.edu | rkhan@gmail.com | linkedin.com/in/rachelkhan1

Make it simple, yet specific. Tell the **OBJECTIVE** To obtain a Biology Internship – Summer 2020 employer which position you are applying **EDUCATION** Bachelor of Science, Biology, Expected May 2021 Messiah College, Mechanicsburg, PA GPA: 3.5 on a 4.0 scale ◀ Employers want to see your GPA, if above 3.0 Relevant Coursework: Shorten this list Genetics and Development Molecular and Cellular Biology first, if you need Plant Form and Function **Ecology and Adaptation** room elsewhere This area highlights work related to your objective stated above RELATED Research Assistant **EXPERIENCE** Messiah College, Department of Biology, Fall 2018 - Spring 2019 Cataloged plant varieties across college property Photographed plants and uploaded to research website Demonstrate your Plotted distribution of plants using ArborCAD and observed links to local wildlife skill level through experiences Field Researcher PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Summer 2018 Documented rare, threatened, and endangered plants in Lycoming and Tioga counties Created executive summary of findings which was submitted for use on department website This should include **SKILLS** Minitab – intermediate level language or specialized Spanish - intermediate level computer skills If you have no <u>related</u> 6/17- Present **WORK Sales Associate** experience, move this **EXPERIENCE** Banana Republic / Camp Hill, PA section up and expand it Manage multiple tasks, including monitoring sales, ordering and stocking of product Provide quality customer service to approximately 45 people each day **ACTIVITIES** Leader, Earthkeepers Club

Volunteer, Special Olympics

FLEX FALCON

ffalcon@messiah.edu | 555.555.555 | linkedin.com/in/flexfalcon

EDUCATION Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration, May 2020

Messiah College, Mechanicsburg, PA

- Cumulative GPA: 3.5/4.0; Major GPA: 3.8/4.0
- Financed
- 70% of college expenses through summer jobs and HOPE Scholarship

RELATED EXPERIENCE

Financial Network Services, Sydney, Australia, May-August 2019

System Administrator Assistant

- Used IBM Power9 for development and testing in various geographical regions
- Led team of four to configure notebooks and install multilingual software for overseas consultants
- Created user accounts and set permissions and passwords
- Performed hardware maintenance, technical support, and software research

PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Mechanicsburg Area Humane Society, Mechanicsburg, PA, January 2018-May 2018 MIST 4620: Systems Analysis and Design

- Served as project team leader and developed a database to track the adoption of animals
- Designed website that allowed viewing of specific animals for adoption
- Used Visual Basic to set up the user interface
- Incorporated Java, HTML, and Flash interactive website (www.aahumane.gov)

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Student Government Association (SGA), Messiah College, September 2017-May 2018 Treasurer

- Managed a budget of \$10,000 and allocated funds as needed
- Handled all transactions and purchases while ensuring proper account balances

Self-Employed Lawn Service, New Cumberland, PA, Summers 2015-2017

Lawn Maintenance

- Established and retained customer base in local neighborhoods
- Gained experience establishing a small business

COMPUTER SKILLS

- Programming Languages: Visual Basic, SQL, C, C++, Java, Scala
- Operating Systems: Windows 10, Apple Mojave
- Database: SQL, MS Access, Oracle
- Internet: ASP, VB Script, JavaScript, HTML, XML, ASP.NET, Java Server, Perl
- Software: JCL, MS Visio, MS Excel, MS Word

HONORS/ACTIVITIES

- Boyer Scholar Recipient recognizes academic accomplishments, distinguished leadership, and service
- Member of Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE)

STARRY BOYER

Sboyer@messiah.edu | 555.555.5555 | linkedin.com/in/starry.boyer

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts in Politics (Honors Program), Expected May 2020

Messiah College, Mechanicsburg, PA GPA: 3.7/4.0

Certificate in Personal and Organizational Leadership

 Participant in highly selective, individualized two-year leadership development program including academic courses, personal assessments, externships, team building, and community service

Semester Abroad: University of Barcelona, Spain, Fall 2017

- Immersed in intensive Spanish language program while also living with a Spanish-speaking host family resulting in enhanced language proficiency
- Demonstrated flexibility and interpersonal competence within a diverse context by interacting daily with international students representing 15 countries
- · Exhibited self-initiative and organizational skills while coordinating a group trip to neighboring countries
- Volunteered at a local shelter to learn more about social challenges facing the local people as well as business practices in a non-profit setting

INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

Marketing Consultant, ABC Company, Harrisburg, PA, August 2018 – Present

- Analyze market investment trends in business and real estate
- Create strategic marketing plan for business-to-business and consumer marketing
- Manage external communications and lead consulting team project

Intern, The Population Institute, Washington, D.C., June – August 2018

- Conceptualized, created, and negotiated student scholarship program serving 15 students per year
- Managed public relations for World Population Day Symposium with international press, NGOs, and government employees
- Successfully wrote grant proposals and worked to improve effectiveness of direct mail fundraising
- Advocated for issue awareness in legislative decisions with Congress and NGOs

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Resident Assistant, Messiah College Residence Life, Mechanicsburg, PA, August 2018 – May 2019

- Designed, implemented, and evaluated educational programs for up to 100 residents
- Extensively utilized communication and counseling skills in supervising 65 women in residence hall
- Responded to various crises in a building housing 200 residents
- Explained, interpreted, and enforced College housing policies
- Compiled an annual facility inventory and report

YMCA Camp Program, Carlisle, PA

Leadership Counselors Program, June – August 2017

- Developed leadership training curriculum to be used by 36 counselors
- Taught leadership lessons to groups of 5-15 children ages 10-15
- Managed cabin of 12 students

Head Counselor, June - August 2016

- Interviewed, hired, and trained 35 counselors
- Designed camp schedule; maintained order in daily activities involving 250+ campers

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Mentor, Harrisburg City Mentor Program, January – May 2018

LARSEN S. UNION

717-555-5555 | LUI440@MESSIAH.EDU | LINKEDIN.COM/IN/LARSENUNION

OBJECTIVE

To utilize my organizational, leadership and teamwork skills in community development through a non-profit

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, Minor in Peace and Conflict Studies, Expected May 2020

Messiah College, Mechanicsburg, PA

GGPA: 3.8/4.0

Chiang Mai University, Chiang Mai, Thailand, January - May 2018

Engaged in intensive Thai Language and Culture Study

Messiah College SALT House, Harrisburg, PA, August - December 2017

Developed skills in community engagement through education and service within an urban context

RELATED EXPERIENCE

Student Director

Agapé Center Outreach Teams, Messiah College, Mechanicsburg, PA, September 2019 - May 2020

- Coordinated and led 13-person team in organizing local service opportunities
- Managed the Outreach Team budget of approximately \$6,500 in funds
- Communicated with student body about outreach activities through email, print, and various social media sites

Delegate Member

NGO Committee on the Status of Women 2020, New York City, NY, February 2019

Attended the conference with the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom delegation

Development Intern

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Philadelphia, PA, September - December 2018

- Assisted in fundraising work and development for national campaigns
- Organized lodging arrangements for the fall board meeting
- Attended the United Nations Security Council meeting on Resolution 1325

GLOBAL EXPERIENCE

Thailand, May - August 2018

- Interned for eight weeks at Chiang Mai Home for Boys and assisted staff in English translation
- Cared for children of migrant workers for six weeks at Burmese Childcare Center

Bolivia, May - August 2017

Cared for young girls at Bolivian Youth Ministries for five weeks

Mexico, December - June 2016

• Worked at a home for children, facilitated youth activities, and built homes

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Food Service Worker, Messiah College Dining Services, Mechanicsburg, PA, August 2016 – May 2017

Planning Team Member, Unlearn Week, January - May 2019

Member, Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Honor Society, April 2018 – Present

Student Member, Student Government Association Forum, Fall 2018 and 2019

COVER LETTERS

Always send a <u>customized</u> cover letter with your résumé. An effective cover letter will tell the reader why you're interested in the position and highlights your experiences which meet the organization's needs. The letter should demonstrate excellent written communication skills.

COVER LETTER CHECKLIST

Do not exceed one page in length.
Do your best to address the letter to a specific individual as opposed to "To Whom It May Concern." You may need to contact Human Resources to request this information.
Avoid starting every sentence with "I"
Focus on what you have to contribute to the employer – not what you hope to get from them
Refer to specific experiences that will grab the reader's attention
Synthesize and provide examples of your most significant and relevant skills
The core emphasis of the letter is stating why you're a good fit and how you can contribute to the company
When emphasizing your "fit" for the position, demonstrate your knowledge of the company
Avoid clichés or slang
No flowery language; stick to three, or at most four, concise paragraphs (see the following samples)
Watch for spelling and grammar errors
If being sent hard copy: always sign the letter; use the same high-quality paper that you did for your résumé; never staple your résumé and cover letter, and mail résumé and cover letter in a large envelope to avoid folding.

EMAILING A COVER LETTER

The cover letter is often your first introduction to a prospective employer. You should use the body of the email for your cover letter and attach your résumé saved as a PDF. Keep in mind the focus of your cover letter should demonstrate:

- 1) your written communication skills
- 2) outline how your skills and experience match the employer's needs and
- 3) express your interest and enthusiasm for the position.

Compose a new cover email for each organization to which you are applying – one that responds specifically to the organization's needs. Do not use a generic cover email to send to several, or many, employers. Most cover letters follow a general format, as follows, with three brief paragraphs:

Subject line of the email should be descriptive: "Résumé - Spring Justice Internship - Lauren Bacall"			
Dear use their first n	: (Do NOT use "hey" or "Hi". Always use a title – e.g., "Ms. Chopra" or "Dr. Tan"; never ame! You may use something like "Dear HR Director" or "Dear Search Committee")		
	n) Explain why you are writing and indicate the internship position for which you are applying		
•	eard about the position and the organization. Mention something you appreciate about the act as their emphasis on community involvement or a certain product or service. The first		

(Second paragraph) Emphasize your skills and qualifications, and demonstrate how your experience meets the requirements for the position. Do not merely repeat the information listed on your résumé, but expand on the experiences that are most relevant to this particular employer. Outline the skills you will bring to the specific position and communicate how you think you will contribute to the organization.

paragraph should catch the attention of the reader and create interest in you as a potential candidate.

(Third paragraph) Refer the reader to the documents you have attached, such as your résumé, application, transcripts, etc. Close the email by asking for an opportunity to meet to discuss the internship position. Take the initiative and note that you plan to follow up with a phone call. Thank the reader for taking the time to consider your résumé.

Sincerely,

First and Last Name Phone Email

SAMPLE COVER LETTER #1

One College Avenue P.O. Box 5555 Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

February 2, 2019

Ms. Fran Smith, RN Director of Nursing Children's Hospital Boston P.O. Box 549252 Waltham, MA 02454

Dear Ms. Smith:

I am writing to express my interest in a position as a registered nurse at your hospital. In May 2019, I will graduate from Messiah College with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. As one of the top pediatric hospitals in the United States, your hospital offers the opportunity to further develop my knowledge and skills, and to grow as a professional pediatric nurse. I would strongly consider any staff nursing positions that may be available.

As indicated in my résumé, I have worked with children in a variety of settings. These experiences, along with an excellent clinical rotation at Hershey Medical Center, have provided a broad foundational understanding regarding the issues of child health. In addition to my nursing skills, I will bring strong leadership and organizational skills gained through my extra-curricular involvement. Advisors, supervisors, and clinical instructors have commented on my ability to manage multiple tasks simultaneously while maintaining a level of enthusiasm for the project at hand. I would be honored to join Children's Hospital Boston as a highly functional team member and would be able to contribute to the care of your patients in the manner you so clearly require of your staff.

Thank you for giving my résumé careful consideration. Please feel free to contact me at 717-555-1212 or via email at doe@internetprovider.com if you have any questions.

I look forward to speaking with you.

Sincerely,

Jane Doe

Enclosure: Résumé

SAMPLE COVER LETTER #2

632 Job Search Lane New York, NY 55555

January 12, 2019

Ms. Wanda Miller
Vice President of Operations and Federal Relations
The Capitol Association for International Affairs
9999 Federal Street
Washington, D.C. 14444-0003

Dear Ms. Miller:

Enclosure(s)

I am writing in response to the email from the International Affairs Organization regarding summer internships with The Capitol Association for International Affairs. As a junior Politics major at Messiah College, I am very interested in applying my academic experience while gaining relevant skills and experience through an internship. Additionally, I would like to explore career options in the field of international affairs, cultivate professional networks, and develop greater awareness of global issues. I believe the combination of my education, along with my campus leadership roles make me a strong candidate for this internship.

As the Fundraising Committee Representative for Student Life, I have demonstrated the ability to operate in a complex environment. My duties consisted of marketing fundraising opportunities to members and managing a budget of \$15,000. This responsibility has taught me careful attention to detail as well as working successfully as part of a team. I hope to have the opportunity to apply these skills and experience as an intern at The Capitol Association for International Affairs.

I am a team player and an active and enthusiastic contributor in all of my endeavors. If given the opportunity, I would be committed to contributing my fluency in French and Spanish, leadership and communication skills, and positive attitude to meet the needs and goals of your organization.

Thank you for giving my application careful consideration. I look forward to hearing from you regarding potential internship opportunities. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me at mwilliams@jobsearch.net or 555.555.5555.

Kind regards,		
Maya Williams		

SAMPLE COVER LETTER #3

85 Unemployed Drive Harrisburg, PA 17777

October 1, 2018

Ms. Charlotte Johnson Director of College Recruiting City Textiles Company 987 Locust Lane Boston, MA 55555

Dear Ms. Johnson:

This is known as a sample **letter of inquiry**. If no positions are publicly
posted, you may want to send your
application materials expressing your
interest and what you have to offer.

I am writing to inquire about professional sales opportunities at City Textiles Company. As someone with a genuine interest and respect for the apparel industry, I am very eager to learn about career opportunities with your prestigious organization. My business education, work experience, and strong interpersonal and persuasive skills have provided me with valuable skill sets which could be an asset to your organization.

With a Business Administration major and marketing minor, I have acquired excellent quantitative and analytical skills. In addition to my academic coursework, my internship with XYZ, Inc., and volunteer work with Children First have taught me valuable skills in time management, leadership, interpersonal communication, and self-directedness. During my internship with XYZ, Inc., I was required to meet strict deadlines, learn to be resourceful, and demonstrate flexibility in the midst of a fast-paced environment. These are skills that I know would be useful in a sales position with City Textiles Company.

Attached is my résumé which further details my experiences and qualifications. If any questions arise or you would like additional information, you may contact me at jfoster12@hotmail.com or 555.555.5555. Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to speaking with you.

_				
`	ın	~~	ır۵	l٧.
_				ıv.

Jack R. Foster

Enclosure

Jasmine Jobseeker

200 Seeking Employment Lane | Hireme, PA | 555-555-5555 givemeajob@zzz.com

REFERENCES

Dr. Winnie Pooh Assistant Professor of Honeymaking 1000 Hundred Acre Wood Makebelieve, PA 19999 555-555-5555 ilovehoney@zzz.com

Ms. Minnie Mouse Social Director, Mickey Enterprises 999 Disney World Lane Orlando, FL 00000 555-555-5555 whenyouwishuponastar@zzz.com

Dr. Tinker Bell
Chair, Department of Fairy Sciences
1 Neverneverland Lane
Fairydust, PA 20000
555-555-5555
petespal@zzz.com

References are people who are willing to speak highly on your behalf to prospective employers.

Only submit references when asked; otherwise bring a hard copy along to your interview.

Be sure to communicate to all individuals who are serving as your references so that they are aware of the jobs to which you are applying. For more information on references, visit the Career & Professional Development Center's website.

ACTION VERBS FOR RÉSUMÉ S & LINKEDIN PROFILES

ivianageme	ent/
Leadership	Skills
-	

S administered analyzed appointed approved assigned attained authorized chaired considered consolidated contracted controlled converted

planned presided prioritized produced recommended reorganized replaced restored reviewed scheduled streamlined strengthened supervised terminated

expressed formulated furnished incorporated influenced interacted interpreted interviewed involved ioined judged lectured listened marketed mediated moderated negotiated observed outlined

participated

persuaded

conducted critiqued detected determined diagnosed evaluated examined experimented explored extracted formulated gathered identified inspected interpreted interviewed invented investigated located measured organized researched searched solved summarized surveyed

compared

Communication/

coordinated decided delegated developed directed eliminated emphasized enforced enhanced established executed generated handled headed hired hosted improved incorporated

increased

inspected

instituted

managed merged

motivated

organized

originated

overhauled

oversaw

led

initiated

People Skills addressed advertised arbitrated arranged articulated authored clarified collaborated communicated composed condensed conferred consulted contacted conveyed convinced corresponded debated defined described developed directed discussed drafted

edited

elicited

enlisted

explained

presented promoted proposed publicized reconciled recruited referred reinforced reported resolved responded solicited specified spoke suggested summarized synthesized translated wrote

adapted assembled built calculated computed conserved constructed converted debugged designed determined

Research Skills

analyzed clarified collected

Technical Skills

systematized

tested

developed engineered fabricated

fortified installed maintained operated overhauled printed programmed rectified regulated remodeled repaired replaced restored solved specialized standardized studied upgraded utilized

Teaching Skills

adapted
advised
clarified
coached
communicated
conducted
coordinated
critiqued
developed
enabled
encouraged

encouraged
evaluated
explained
facilitated
focused
guided
individualized
informed
instilled
instructed
motivated
persuaded
set goals

simulated

stimulated

taught

tested

trained

transmitted

tutored

Financial/ **Data Skills** administered adiusted allocated analyzed appraised assessed audited balanced calculated computed conserved corrected determined developed

estimated
forecasted
managed
marketed
measured
planned
programmed
projected
reconciled
reduced
researched
retrieved

Creative Skills

acted adapted began combined conceptualized condensed created customized designed developed directed displayed drew entertained established fashioned formulated

founded

illustrated
initiated
instituted
integrated
introduced
invented
modeled
modified
originated
performed
photographed
planned
revised
revitalized

shaped

solved **Helping Skills** adapted advocated aided answered arranged assessed assisted cared for clarified coached collaborated contributed cooperated counseled

demonstrated diagnosed educated encouraged ensured expedited facilitated familiarize furthered guided helped insured intervened motivated provided referred rehabilitated presented

resolved simplified supplied supported volunteered

Organization/
Detail Skills
approved
arranged
cataloged
categorized
charted
classified
coded
collected

compiled corresponded distributed executed filed generated implemented incorporated inspected logged maintained monitored obtained operated ordered organized prepared processed provided purchased recorded registered reserved responded reviewed routed scheduled screened set up

submitted

standardized

systematized

supplied

updated

validated verified

More verbs for Accomplishments

achieved completed

expanded

exceeded

improved

pioneered

reduced (losses)

resolved (issues)

restored

spearheaded

succeeded

surpassed

transformed

won

*Action verb list credit: Wake Forest University Office of Personal and Career Development