

Ch 3: Are you ready for a summer job?

Now that we've started working through the basics of your summer job program search, you've probably started to see that there's a lot of prep work that goes into landing a spot at your ideal program - and that there may not be as many options as you'd thought. Remember that these jobs you're getting for the summer aren't the ones that you'll have for the rest of your life - it's a foundation to your FEO, the first building block to crafting the life of your dreams.

Hopefully, even just deciding to make this change has you excited by the potential for your summer: a little cash, something for your resume, maybe even a rebooted social life with similarly driven friends. But if you're sitting here thinking you can show up on day one of your job ready to roll, you're in for a surprise. There are many moving pieces in play that you're in control of to ensure you're prepped for that critical first day - and every day that follows.

It's entirely possible that this summer job is the first employment you've ever had - and that's totally okay. But even though you're new to the world of work, you have to head in with a clear idea of where you stand, as well as where you'd like to go. In the last chapter, we touched on the five elements of FEO-growth that you get from a summer job, and we'll get more in-depth later, but for now, think about these questions in the most general sense.

Let's Get to Work!		
What are some responsibilities you've had?	What are some skills you think you have?	In what ways do you think you're reliable?

So how ready do you think you are for a summer job? On a scale of one to ten, where one is "I can't even picture myself at a job ever" and ten is "I've never been more ready for something in my life," jot down a quick number here:

With that number in hand, think back to the exercise at the beginning of the book, where we looked at your life one year from this moment, after you've completed the summer job program. Look to the more immediate future, just six months from now, and ask yourself this: What do you need to do now to improve your economic opportunities six months down the line?

Do you have a vision for how to go about that yet? If you only have a vague idea, don't worry. This book will get you lined up and poised for success with the help of your summer job program. If you're looking to make the biggest splash in your life and really turn things around in six months, consider this:

What do you do that lets people around you know you're serious about working?

By knowing where you stand, you give yourself a better idea of where you're starting from and how to move forward from there. Take this quick quiz to check in with how prepared you really are for the job you're heading out to do - but remember! Quizzes are only effective if you're honest with yourself. The more transparently you answer, the better an idea you'll have of what you need to get out of the summer job program. At this stage in your journey, there are no wrong answers - each answer here leads you to your best life and greatest FEO.

<i>For each of these questions, rank yourself using this scale.</i>				
1	2	3	4	5
<i>My actions and attitudes show this is never true.</i>	<i>My actions and attitudes show this is almost never true.</i>	<i>My actions and attitudes show this is some-times true.</i>	<i>My actions and attitudes show this is often true.</i>	<i>My actions and attitudes show this is always true.</i>

1. I'm willing and able to show up to work consistently and on time. _____

Why did you choose that number? _____

Describe a time when you've demonstrated this ability at work, school, or in your community:

What can you do to move one number up the scale?

2. I'm willing and able to follow directions. _____

Why did you choose that number?

Describe a time when you've demonstrated this ability at work, school, or in your community:

What can you do to move one number up the scale?

3. I'm willing and able to be trustworthy. _____

Why did you choose that number?

Describe a time when you've demonstrated this ability at work, school, or in your community:

What can you do to move one number up the scale?

4. I'm willing and able to show up looking professional and with a good attitude. _____

Why did you choose that number?

Describe a time when you've demonstrated this ability at work, school, or in your community:

What can you do to move one number up the scale?

5. I'm willing and able to be alcohol and drug-free. _____

Why did you choose that number?

Describe a time when you've demonstrated this ability at work, school, or in your community:

What can you do to move one number up the scale?

6. I am willing and able to handle my paycheck responsibly.

Why did you choose that number?

Describe a time when you've demonstrated this ability at work, school, or in your community:

What can you do to move one number up the scale?

7. I am willing and able to complete high school. If I've left high school, I'm willing and able to obtain my GED. _____

Why did you choose that number?

Describe a time when you've demonstrated this ability at work, school, or in your community:

What can you do to move one number up the scale?

8. I am willing and able to work positively and effectively with others. _____

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Why did you choose that number?

Describe a time when you've demonstrated this ability at work, school, or in your community:

What can you do to move one number up the scale?

Look over all your answers and write down the average of all the scores you gave yourself. To do that, add up each answer, and divide by the number of questions (eight).

_____ (total of all your answers) / 8 (the total number of questions) = _____

The answer you get is your actual readiness on a scale of 1 to 5. If you're better off than you thought, then congratulations! Just remember there's always room to improve. If you're disappointed to see your average so low, just think about the future and what you can do to make those changes. You have the ability to embody all the shifts you wrote down above to help you move one number (or more!) up the scale. For now, choose two things from above, and commit to the changes by writing them below.

To get those changes going, the baby steps I'll take today are:
1
2

Today, I'll start building my FEO by committing to these two changes:
1
2

When you make these changes, you'll be surprised by how easily everything else falls into place. Playing your cards right by being prepped for everything a summer job will throw your way not only makes your next few weeks brighter, but also gives you the opportunity to kickstart your future. If you feel stressed by how many things you have on your plate to change, don't let it get to you: just like how bad things snowball and seem to pile on each other, the same happens with good things: the more effort you put into pushing for your FEO, the easier all other aspects become and the more like second nature the good stuff gets.

And you don't have to do this alone. Who is one adult in your life that can serve as a mentor to help you navigate the ins and outs of summer job success? This can be an instructor guiding you through this book, a supportive family member, or your supervisor on the job site.

Reach out to the person you wrote down and share with them the places you realized you need to improve, and the two baby steps you've written down for success. Be receptive to any advice they have for how to better achieve those goals. What did they recommend?

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