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To: Rachel Bryson

From: Ben Smith

Resume and Cover Letter

I recently spent a lot of time on my resume for a job that I just got. A couple months back, I started looking for a job that better fit my goals for my career. The only other jobs I have had were several years as a janitor, and a year of data processing. Both quite mind numbing and both not what I really wanted in a job. I applied for a Software Developer job in the same company and got an interview. It was a very good and interesting experience unlike my other two interview experiences. After the formal and technical interviews. They called to tell me I didn't get the job and then set up another meeting to tell me why I didn't. In that meeting I was told that I was second pick and then they gave me a bunch of great tips on how to make my resume better. A few months later the same position opened up again and I got the job.

Since then, I haven't made a lot of changes to my resume. From the peer review I got some good suggestions about the format and the layout. Originally I had it more spread out, but now it has the most important information on top. I also added my new job so it actually looks like I'm interested in computer science. I moved my GitHub link to the top instead of having it under skills.

The presentation done by the Space Dynamics Lab reps was something that made a big difference in how I look at a resume. Originally I thought that just having one page was what made it good, so I just had all the information I could possibly fit on the one page. Now I understand that having things more ordered makes a big difference.

As far as the cover letter goes, I really made a pretty generic one with fill in the blanks stuff. I applied to a lot of jobs and none of them have ever asked for a cover letter. I understand the principle, but it's a lot better in my opinion to have the template I made and then make some edits to the actual job that I apply to. I think what I've got is definitely a lot more practical.

All in all this assignment was something that I learned a lot from. I've had a lot of these presentations talking about how to write a resume and this one definitely seemed the most definitive. The main different is what I already mentioned about the ordering, but the stuff about the automated systems is something that I didn't know anything about. I didn't know that key words were that important because it always feels kinda silly to put those things on, but it's actually pretty important. I appreciate all the tips from class and the guest presenters and I hope my resume and cover letter are acceptable.