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Analysis of Two Blogs

Blog #1: The Science of The Job Search, Part III: 61% of "Entry Level" Jobs Require 3+ Years of Experience by Kushal Chakrabarti

1 Sentence Summary:

The ability to get an entry level job is becoming increasingly more difficult for new graduates as more companies are beginning to inflate the years of experience required for positions for fresh graduates, but this doesn't mean that it's impossible to get a job

1 Paragraph Summary:

The ability to get a job fresh out of college has become increasingly more difficult as more companies are inflating the required experience for entry level positions. However, this doesn't mean that it's impossible for students in today's age to obtain their first job. With the inflation of required experience increasing every year, students can combat this by taking up freelance jobs as an alternative to build their experience while also being on the hunt for their first job post-graduation. It is not an easy feat considering that the average student applies for 150-250 jobs to get their first job, but the resilience pays off if you take the opportunities available in freelance jobs, contacting recruiters, and applying to positions that require within 0-2 years of experience.

Describe why you found this story interesting:

I primarily chose this piece to read because it resonated with me in the fact that I found myself in a similar situation as I was applying for jobs. I've spent the last six months applying to 140 entry level job postings in engineering, where I received only 3 interviews, until I finally landed a position in these past two weeks. This was a very real experience for me that was very frustrating at this time in my life. It's not eye opening to me because the job market for tech jobs in the bay area is competitive, but regardless of that matter the context of the piece is aimed to students that are fresh graduates struggling to get that first job.

Describe where and how the authors focused your attention:

The main elements of the piece that really struck a chord with me were the visual charts illustrating the inflation on experience because I felt it really validated my own experience about the struggles I had to get my first job. But one thing I hadn't considered was other groups of people that may also find it difficult to find jobs, and one group that author touched on was people past the age of 40. The author presented an analysis and visual on the hireability of

people decreasing once they're past the age of 40. The author's suggestions to those seeking their first job, which was very much me recently, was to build their experience with freelance positions, and reaching out to recruiters. One thing I wish that the author would have touched on was the difficulty of even trying to land a first freelance job because even my experience in that field was extremely challenging. The data that was used was from 4000 applicants that utilized TalentWorks' services in their job hunt, so I'd say that if they followed up with the applicants through the process of their job hunts that the data is pretty reliable. The visualizations throughout the blog utilized the data from applicants and the jobs they applied to. This was effective in showing the spike for entry level jobs that are requiring three years of experience in their job postings. One thing I would have changed from the visualizations is to further illustrate the industries that applicants were working in to better understand the emphasis on the required experience within each industry.

Blog #2: Muse: A Better Music Recommendation Application by Spencer JAmes Stebbins

1 Sentence Summary:

In the world of music streaming services, Muse presents a better music recommendation algorithm than its competitors because it utilizes Spotify's API to obtain data from an entire playlist and the metadata attached to each song within said playlist before recommending new music to users.

1 Paragraph Summary:

Muse is an application that presents a better music recommendation algorithm than its competitors because it utilizes Spotify's API to obtain data from an entire playlist and the metadata attached to each song within said playlist before making user recommendations..This differs primarily from platforms, such as Pandora, where the recommendations are based on the root song of the playlist that was used, or Spotify's built in recommendation system that bases recommendations based off of playlists that shair songs. Muse differs by taking all the attributes for all songs within a playlist, and taking the average values of all of these features to create what is called a "phantom track", which is used to signify the average composition of the entire playlist. These attributes include features, such as danceability, tempo, modality, and energy. Once the average values of these have created the phantom track, the Muse algorithm finds the three closest songs in composition to the phantom track, and recommends them to the user. Finally, once the user adds one of the recommended tracks to their playlist, the algorithm recompiles to generate new recommendations.

Describe why you found this story interesting:

This blog post was extremely interesting to me because I've always been interested in the use of machine learning into the music tech industry, and that includes the streaming industries such as Pandora and Spotify. The idea of identifying a user's taste in music to a

numerical value has always been fascinating to me, and one that I've researched in my own time with my own projects. However, this project has taken a different approach that I hadn't considered before, which is creating a phantom track that signifies the composition of an entire playlist and finding the nearest songs in composition to it. This was very revealing to me because in my own project I took a different approach and chose to cluster a user's music data from a playlist to try and find genre specific recommendations. Muse flipped my previously conceived idea by using entire playlists in their algorithm. This project is definitely exciting to me, especially since I'm always searching for new music, and wondering how I can discover more music that I can enjoy.

Describe where and how the authors focused your attention:

The author focused my attention with the diagrams on how the algorithm worked and flowed. At first, I felt that I didn't understand how this algorithm differed from others, such as Spotify's built in recommendation system, but once the diagram was presented it became clear what Muse was accomplishing. I thought it was great on how the article was structured by breaking down each aspect of Muse into smaller pieces. First by stating what others had done, then by stating the solution that they were trying to provide. I think the way that they are utilizing Spotify's API is brilliant because the metadata to the song features is very informative. I know this because I've used it myself before to try and create my own recommendation algorithm in previous classes. I think the flow chart was the most useful aspect of understanding how the algorithm functioned because it illustrates each step of the process. It made the article very easy to digest and understand.