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Lesson 8: Leadership and Character
3/19/2007

Class Summary:

This lecture focused on ethics, with emphases on career decisions and negotiations. The class began with a discussion on the process of obtaining a job after college and the types of conflicts that may arise. One key argument presented dealt with what type of information should be disclosed on a resume and what can be withheld until the application process. This topic arose after one student talked about his friend who ended up leaving a job shortly after starting so that she could work for a more desirable company. After these discussions, a group lecture with the other section was held where three speakers, including the two instructors, gave personal accounts of ethical dilemmas faced in their respective professions.

Response:

Looking back on the argument about the resumes and information disclosure, I found myself agreeing with the opinion that resumes are not the same as job applications. The intent of the resume is to get noticed, to stand out and to highlight your accomplishments. If a job in your past did not go so well or does not add to your talents then it should be omitted from the resume. On the job application, however, you need to be honest with past work experiences as you never know what the potential employer has found out on their own.

Analysis:

My opinions on the difference between resumes and applications stems from my experience this past fall semester in English 202C, where ethical practice on job application packets was thoroughly discussed. We were taught to tailor our resumes to get the interview but still be honest with the information presented. When the interview is achieved, then you will have an opportunity to explain any bad past work experiences that may appear as a result of holes in your work timeline.

Sound-bite:

Keep a list of yearly accomplishments so that raises can be negotiated more effectively.