



March 14, 2018

Vermilion Parish Jobseeker Training Tips

Preparing yourself to meet employers at a job fair can be overwhelming. You may be wondering, “How do I stand out? What do I need to do to make a great impression?” To assist the Vermilion Parish jobseekers, we’ve partnered with Goodwill Industries of Acadiana to compile a list of tips and tricks to be more successful.

Identify your skills:

There are three types of skills. Take the time early in your job search to understand what you bring to a potential employer.

- **self-management** – personality traits that make you, you (energetic, positive, eager, etc.)
- **transferable** – they move from one job to the next (customer service, self-motivation, knowledge of computer programs, etc.)
- **job-related** – specific to your career

Know your product:

Think of yourself as a product. Be able to respond to basic questions about who you are and what you can do.

- What are your skills?
- What successes have had you had in previous jobs?
- What’s your work experience?
- How you do with supervision?
- Why did you leave your last job?
- Why should we hire you?

Typical interview questions:

- Can you tell me about yourself?
- What is your greatest strength?

- What is your greatest weakness?
- Why should I hire you?
- What example can you give me of how you handled yourself on a previous job?

Job Fair:

- Choose your wardrobe wisely: dress professionally with slacks/skirt and a dress shirt or dress
- Set up a professional, personal email address that contains your name (example: yourname@gmail.com)
- Make your social media accounts private or remove questionable content
- Listen to employers about their business and careers they hire for
- Pick up a Job Application Worksheet at Goodwill and fill it out to reference
- Decide which businesses you want to meet and research them to find out their company history and services
- Network with other jobseekers
- Use your interactions with employers to practice your interview techniques
- Have multiple copies of your resume and a list of references available



- Prepare a 30 second commercial about yourself
 - Prepare a list of questions to ask employers
 - Get contact information from employers, email and re-introduce yourself and thank them for the opportunity to meet them and apply
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If you don't think you're ready for a job fair, or need individual assistance ahead of time, Goodwill Industries of Acadiana offers a variety of special services. An Employment Specialist is housed at the Abbeville Goodwill location Tuesday mornings beginning at 9 am (other locations in the area also have office hours). Employment Specialists provide one-on-one resume and interview counseling. Specialists can help you connect to re-entry programs for former felons and help you work through special circumstances you may need to explain. If your goal is employment, they can help!

Goodwill Industries of Acadiana

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The Vermilion Parish Job Fair:

Wednesday, April 4th

9am-1pm

Abbeville High School - 1305 Wildcat Drive, Abbeville, LA 70510

Free entry for Jobseekers

For more information, including a list of participating businesses, visit: www.vermilionparishjobfair.com.

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