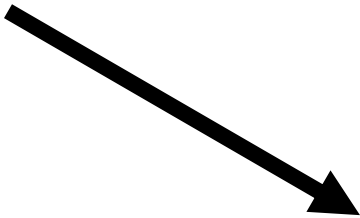


Job-hunting in a pandemic: *How do I even??*

A few tips, tricks, and words of encouragement for making an already-horrible process more manageable during an also-horrible time

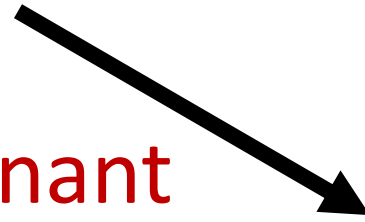
Job-hunting

during COVID-19



Job-hunting

during COVID-19



- 🍒 With kids/while pregnant
 - 🍒 With a disability
 - 🍒 In another city/state/country
 - 🍒 With elderly parents
 - 🍒 After you've been let go
 - 🍒 In a recession
- ...there's always something!



How you'll get through the job search

Same as always!

- Be organized
- Cast a wide net
- Present yourself well
- Be patient and realistic



Be organized!

Stay calm
in a crazed
world

creature comforts

ART & SOUL

ACTION

ReBorn Up
lighten

A compassionate
revolution
Inspiration

Beyond
Success

SUFFERING
IS OPTIONAL
POSSIBILITIES

peace
& love

Before you start your search...

- Have a “**vision board**” or keep a file of prospects
- **ABC**: Always Be Comparing
 - What’s out there **vs.** what you’re doing now
 - What you do/have done **vs.** what employers are looking for
- Mark them up! Highlight, underline, connect the dots
- Borrow the best bits for your cover letters and resumes

When you start hunting...

- Have a **list of sites, lists, company “Careers” pages**, etc. that you check regularly; add to it as you discover new resources
- Have a **list of keywords** that you add to as you go, as well
- If someone sends a posting to you, make a note of it. If several people send a job posting to you, make sure you apply for it.
- Capture the essentials for **every job**
 - Bookmark the posting AND copy the text of the job description to save
 - Summarize the essential information: deadline, application requirements
 - Share these with your references (and see [my Recommendations checklist!](#))
- Consider a **spreadsheet!** (I <3 Airtable...)

A person is seen from behind, standing on a beach and casting a large, wide net into the ocean. The net is spread out in a large circle, covering a significant portion of the water's surface. The person is wearing a dark, textured sweater and dark pants. The background shows the ocean and a hazy horizon. The text "Cast a wide net!" is overlaid in the center in a bold, red font.

Cast a wide net!

Apply for everything

- **Practice** is good
- People and places can **surprise** you
- Even **a dream job** can turn into a nightmare
- **Nothing lasts forever**



Present yourself well!

In your application...

- Focus on **what you DO have**, not what you DON'T
 - End the use of “although” in your cover letters
 - Connect the **dots** – what they want, what you got
 - If you don't have matches, find **parallels**
- Have someone else review your materials
 - Catch typos
 - Tell you how it reads overall
 - This can be a favor that you trade – great peer mentoring opportunity!

In your interview* ...

**Interviewing skills is a whole other session in itself! Here's three quick tips:*

- **Prepare**, prepare, prepare
- Take notes, and **take your time** responding if you need to
- Follow up and say **thank you**

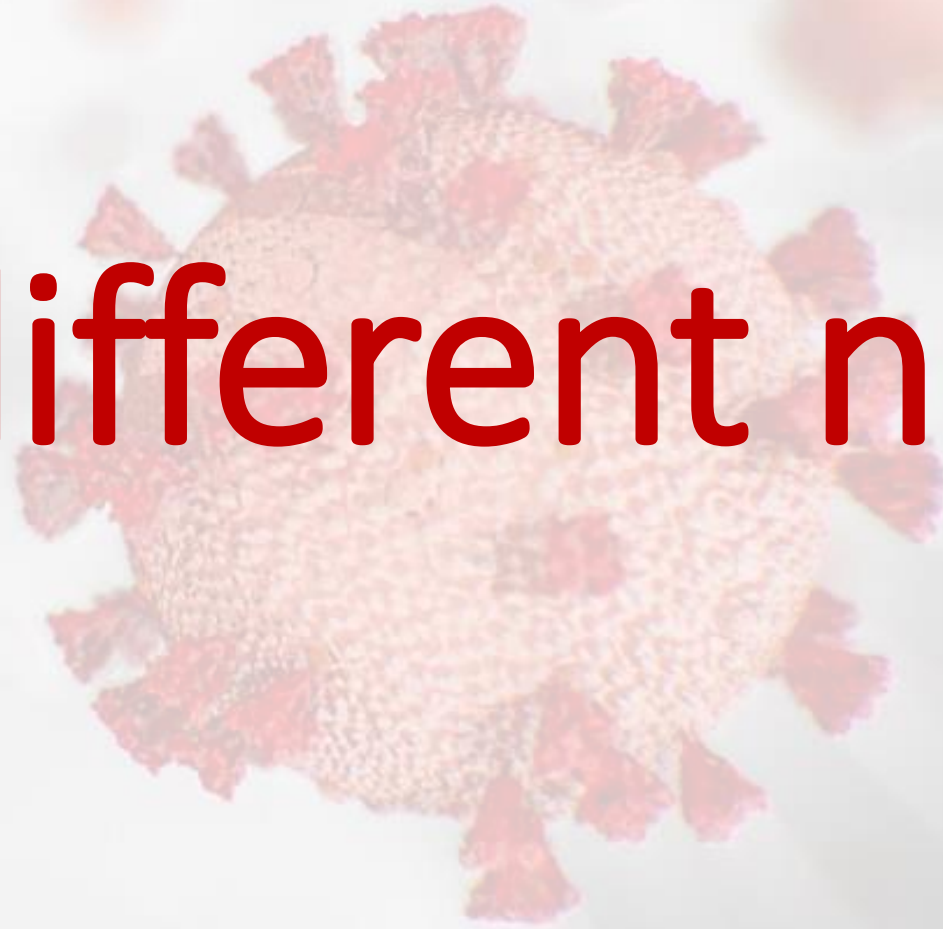
A faint, light gray illustration of an alarm clock is centered in the background. The clock face is visible, showing numbers from 1 to 12. The hands of the clock are positioned to indicate a time around 10:10. The clock has two bells at the top and a winding cord at the bottom.

Be patient & realistic!

Time is weird

- Organizing helps with **reality checks**
- Set a “**self-esteem deadline**” and move on if they’re not that into you
- It’s a two-way street!
 - Don’t ever expect someone to treat you better when you’re an employee than they do when you’re a candidate. Do they respect **your** time?

What's different now?



In the present moment...and beyond?

- Nothing is certain; you'll need information to make the best decisions
- You may need to work (even) harder to hide your desperation
- **Almost all networking is going to be virtual**
- An offer, when you get one, might not feel like quite as much of a win

Work on your passive online presence

- If you don't have one, **make one**
 - Personal web site or portfolio page, LinkedIn, GitHub, social media, etc.
- If you do have one, **update it**
- If it's up to date, **add to it**
- People are even more likely to Google you now; control the narrative

Work on your active online presence

- Social media, if you have a professional presence online
 - It's OK to be a real and whole person, but maybe separate personal/profesh?
- Committees and volunteer projects (if you have the bandwidth)
- Virtual meetings, hangouts, symposia, etc.

All of this can be something to do while you're waiting for the world to stop ending...and it will be useful well into the future, too.

Slides will be available on my
web site: snowdenbecker.com

*Along with handouts and helpful links...and you're
always welcome to get in touch with me directly!*

snowdenbecker@gmail.com

[@snowdenbecker](#)

