

Networking

Networking can sound negative, using other people, but in reality it is an important phase of job hunt. Networking is sharing resources and information, and it is very important part of work and career. You can start networking already during your studies.

Stop and think about your own networks and resources!

We do networking in our every day life. There are many people around you that you communicate with daily. You network through your family, relatives, friends, colleagues, hobbies and children.

Start doing this exercise by drawing (mind mapping) your own resources. You need paper and pens. Draw yourself in middle and then others around you. Remember that the resources can be much more than just the closest friends and family. What about your friends' friends and your friends' families.

Consider:

- Who are the important resources for you in your life?
- What type of information (trends, hints, knowledge, expertise) they can give to you?
- What type of support you can offer for your peers?

Networking is sharing information both ways, so you will also have to share your resources with others, for example when you know about good job opportunity or training course.

You can use this exercise also to improve your self-knowledge.

- How would people around you describe you? I believe that your mother sees you differently than your previous employer.

Disconnections and Misconnections?

Are you lacking some links to the career life? Think of people, and organizations that you do not know yet, and which are professionally interesting to you. Plan on a paper, how you could reach or connect with these people or organizations? Could information interview help? How would you get these people connected with your personal network? Mentoring? Fraternity? Union work? Internship? Summer or project work maybe?