

Job searching in a pandemic

April 10, 2020, Lara Fowler (lbf10@psu.edu)

First things first

It SUCKS!

So now what?
And what questions do you have?

You can't control this situation, so what can you do?



Take a deep breath (panic isn't helpful!)



Think about your strengths & how to convey who you are (resume? Cover letter)



Tap into your network



Figure out a creative strategy (near term, longer term) for building your skills, connections



Stay sane!

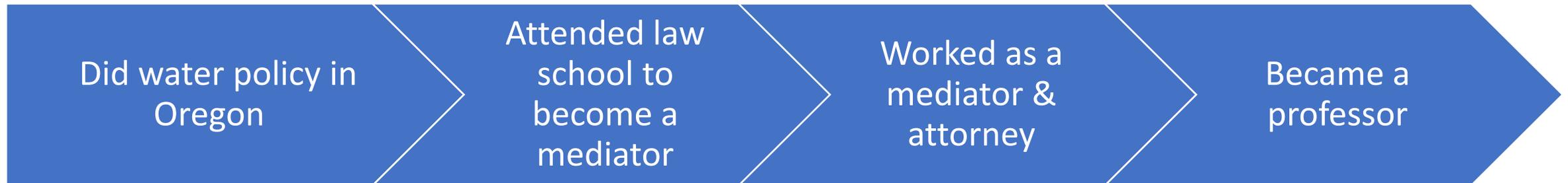


Take care of your mental health!





Figure out how to tell your story!





(But know that stories are often complicated)

Spent a year working bad jobs

Found a water policy job a week before my boyfriend graduated from college

Turned temp job into permanent job. Had 4 bosses in 4 years.

Went to law school. Wondered why I was there (not a litigator!)

Spent a lot of time exploring opportunities, had coffee with the right person

Did water policy in Oregon



Attended law school to become a mediator



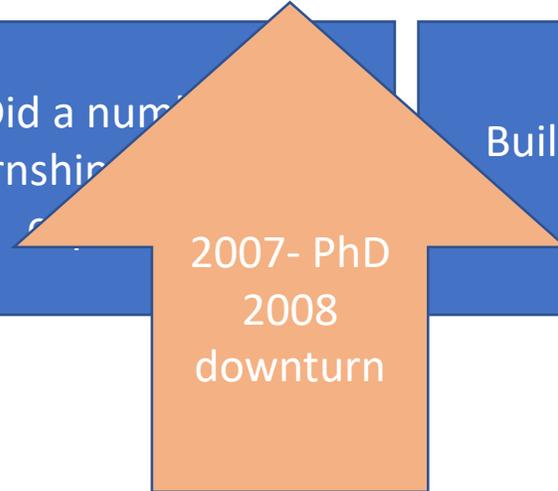
Became a professor

Got laid off a few months later when they ran out of \$. Temp job at OWRD

Did a lot of on the job training/courses re: facilitation

Did a number of internships

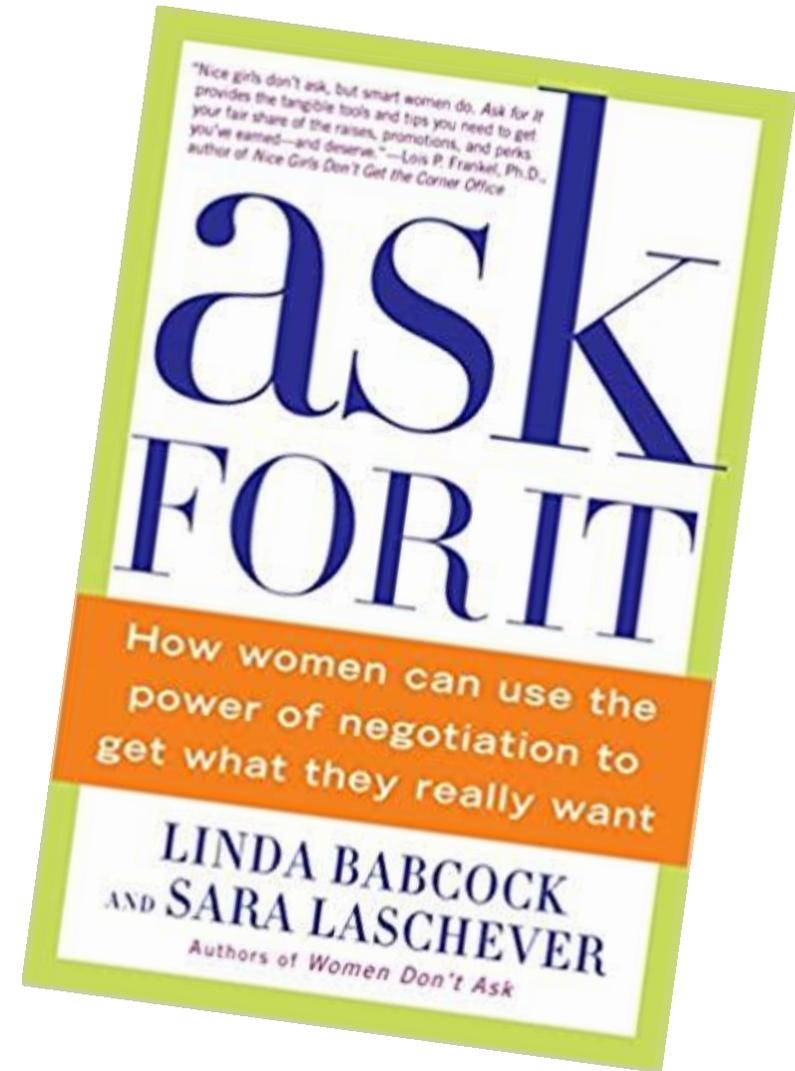
Built skills, did more training



2007- PhD
2008
downturn

👤 Figure out what YOU want to do

- Think about what you love to do
- What are your passions? Your skills?





Then think about how to convey your story— resumes are important

- Think about how to convey your skills and passions
- Ask for help (from lots of people)

Example:

- Worked multiple jobs to support ski training

Same time period, different description:

Full-time cross-country ski training with Olympic aspirations.

👤 Cover letters are important too!

Hey, Students: 5 Things That Are Wrong With Your Cover Letter

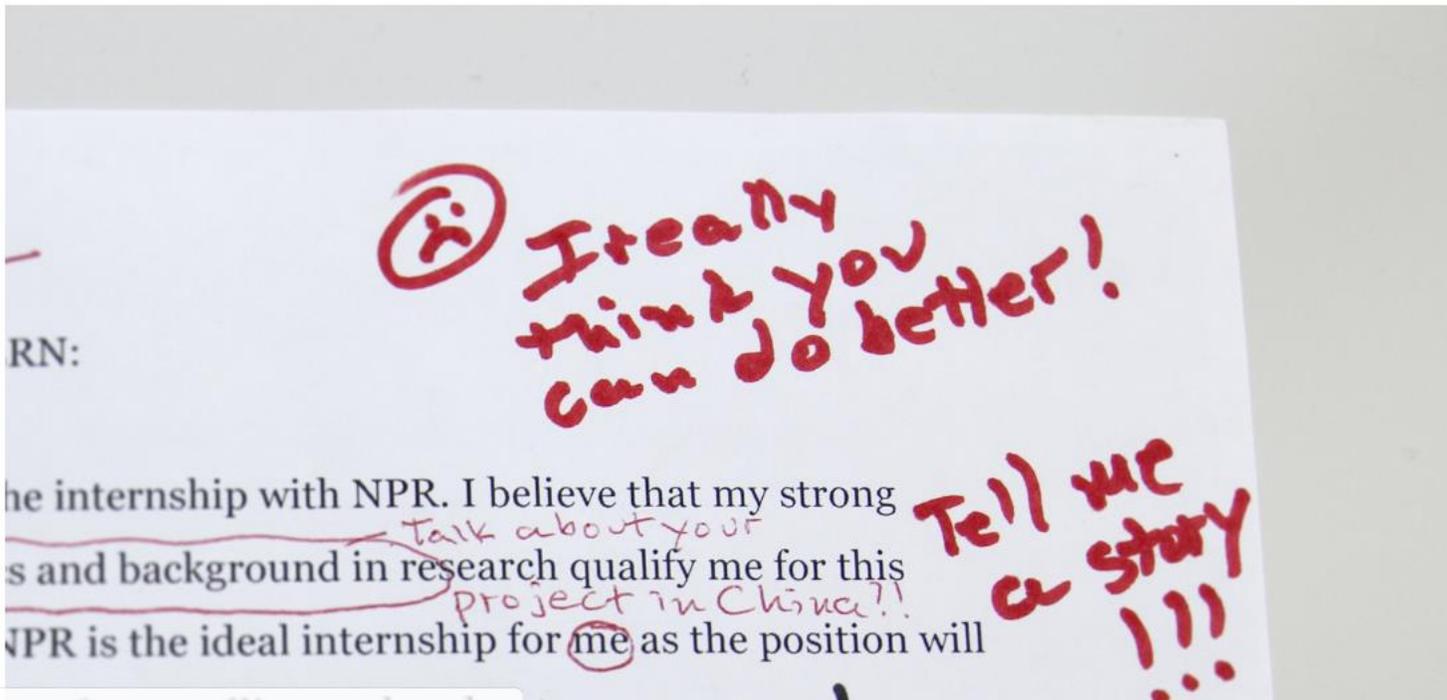
February 27, 2017 · 6:00 AM ET



STEVE DRUMMOND



ELISSA NADWORNYY

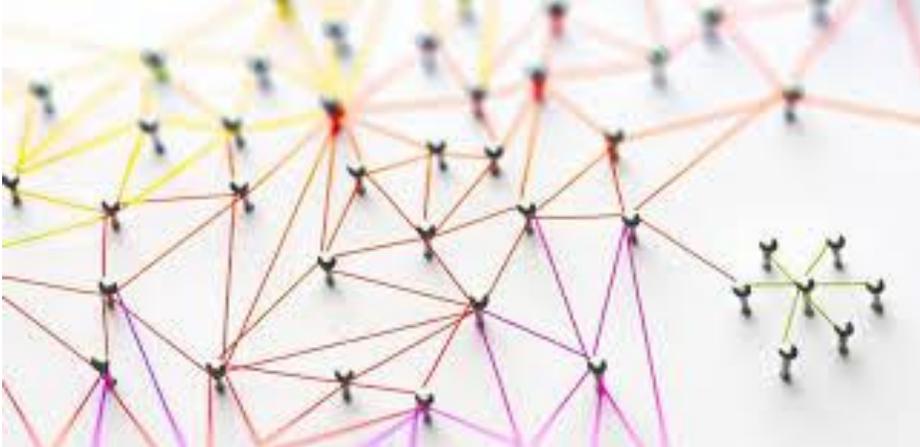


- Most cover letters I read are BORING
- Tell your story!
- Ask your advisory board

Link:

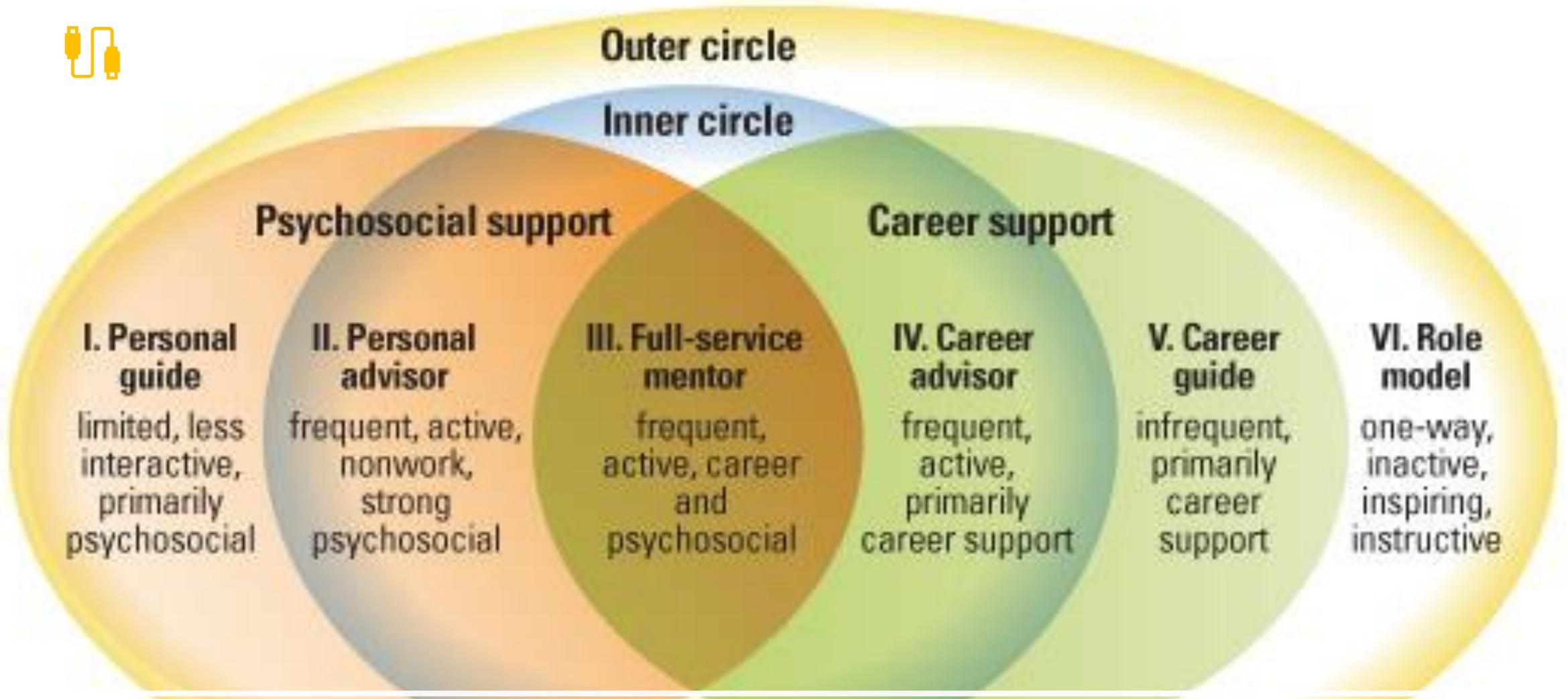
<https://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2017/02/27/502445571/hey-students-5-things-that-are-wrong-with-your-cover-letter>

🔌 Tap into your network



“Ask for a job, they might give you advice.
Ask for advice, maybe they know of a job.”

- Brainstorm everyone who might be able to help you
- Let them know what you are looking for
- Ask if they can review your resume & cover letter
- Don't be shy about asking who else they might recommend you talk with
- Twitter & Linked In = potential sources
- Join your local bar association and pertinent section- watch for CLEs
- Consider creating an advisory board



Create a personal advisory board?



Develop some creative strategies
(near term, longer term)





Build your skills along the way

Catherine Rogers likes this



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View

arbitration-icca.org

L. Yves Fortier, CC, OQ, QC speaking on "The United Nations as an Agent of Progress in International..."

💡 Stay sane

- Build a schedule
- Include time for exercise or a break- what do you do for fun?
- Look for resources wherever you can find them- unemployment, other?
- Take a job that might not have been your dream job (and build your skills, connections)
- This may feel long and frustrating- hang in there
- Ask for help!





Happy to talk
(via zoom)

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