

For people in the midst of a job search, discouragement and frustration can often take hold and destroy your confidence. There seem to be countless people out there who are more qualified than you, have more experience than you do, and are just generally better for the job. This kind of thinking will not do you any good. An employer is not just looking for someone who is impressive on paper. People get hired for all kinds of reasons, and many of them don't have anything to do with a resume. Here are some things to keep in mind as you search for a job:

**1. You have a lot to offer.**

Really, you do. Most of us are the last to see how much we can contribute to a company. So many of the qualities that others value in us are the ones that we take for granted or don't see. Being an honest, responsible, fun, humorous, compassionate, punctual, quick, friendly, studious, or detail-oriented person could make the difference between you and that other candidate with the great resume. Don't get discouraged by comparing yourself to others. Look at your good points, not just the ones on the application. Remember that companies want to hire a person, not a piece of paper.

**2. People are in your life for a reason.**

Ask your friends and family about what they see in you. This may seem awkward at first, but these people know you best. Your friends have actually chosen to include you in their lives. Ask them what it is about you that they rely on, that they respect. If you feel strange or embarrassed doing this, start by telling them what you see in them that is so special. Most people will reciprocate.

**3. Keep an accomplishments file.**

You have had some really good fortune in the past, haven't you? You have accomplishments and maybe some awards or recognition. Perhaps you have gotten raises or promotions or jobs that turned out to be beyond your dreams. Maybe you made great grades in school or you did something that really impressed your family and friends. This stuff is important. It is a part of who you are just as much as any lessons you have learned from failure. To keep from judging yourself on your shortcomings, keep a file or a scrapbook of your accomplishments. Include emails that you get from people encouraging you in your new challenges. When you feel discouraged or doubtful about your worth, pull out these treasures. You deserve to feel confident. And in the end, that confidence will go further to getting you a great job than any resume entry ever could.