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# The job search according to Socrates

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(http://connect.cleveland.com/user/tmrosko/index.html) By Terri Mrosko
(http://connect.cleveland.com/user/tmrosko/posts.html)
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Socrates, the classical Greek philosopher, largely credited as one of the founders of Western philosophy, was born sometime around 470 BC. Most of the direct knowledge of the man, his life and philosophy is based entirely on writings by his students and contemporaries including Plato and Aristotle. So, what can we possibly learn from a man who lived more than 2,500 years ago? What can Socrates teach us about doing a job search in today's market?



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A lot, said Kerry Tobin, assistant professor of philosophy at Cuyahoga Community College. "Socrates' teachings are chock full of wisdom and can apply to all areas of our life."
The following portrays what Tobin thinks Socrates would say if he were here to offer his perennial wisdom. Answer these questions and apply this insight, Tobin said, and you will be on your way to accomplishing the ever-challenging quest of finding employment. Approach, approach, approach. Although some found it annoying, Socrates would walk up to complete strangers and engage them in dialogue. He believed the discovery could be found in the dialogue. He would humbly ask a question, attempt to engage and then see if each could be left any more the wiser for having had the discussion.
Today, Socrates and his conversation partner might explore what is meant by a "search." He would most likely ask, "How is a search conducted?" or "What are the steps one takes in searching for something?" Use analysis and draw people into exploration.
Question. And do so with complete humility. Socrates was hailed as the wisest among men yet he flatly denied the claim. Socrates learned from his fellow citizens and engaged them as best he could so as to learn as much as he could.
This approach can serve in the job search as well. Ask questions, be humble and learn as much as you can. Suspend pretensions and false ideas and get to the heart of the matter. It will serve you well in the achievement of your goal.
Strive for excellence in all areas. Take stock of your intellectual, creative and emotional side and put them to good use. Employ all your skills fully in the pursuit of appropriate, meaningful work. How can you approach the search intellectually? Critically look at the typical approaches one uses in finding a job and ask if it can be done another way. Take a different perspective and look at the big picture.
Get creative. How can your creative gifts be put to use? What emotional strengths do you possess that will make you stand above the rest? For example, do you have tenacity or an eye for detail? Take stock of all your unique gifts and allow yourself to shine.

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