

Using Resume Writing Services

by Grant Cooper, CRW

CareerPro of New Orleans

yww@gs.net

There are basically 2 types of resume services, the first being simply resume typists who take your words and information and input it into a resume style format. Some of these will change a word or two here or there, correct spelling, or add some simple wording as needed, but in general do little more than perform a secretarial service.

The other type is the full service resume writing firm, which works not only from notes or written information provided by the client, but additionally conducts an interview to draw out important information. These writers then take the materials and interview notes, as well as data stored in their computer systems on each field, and develop a truly creative resume. When done correctly by highly qualified writers, this process can often result in the best possible document for a jobseeker. For this reason, even among well-educated and highly literate professionals, many insist on using a full-service resume service. This is likely due to the desire to delegate, a quality extremely important to managers and increasingly required in today's specialized world. It stands to reason that a resume writer who composes only resumes day in and day out should be better at it than most anyone else, assuming of course, that (s)he is qualified and dedicated to begin with.

However, surveys of resume writing services have shown that many do not deliver in terms of quality, creativity, customer service, or value, so it is very important to interview them carefully and request references. Check for certifications, memberships to national associations, and ask how much they know about your career.