Online Professional Identity

Of

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Executive Summary:

The attached report illustrates my online identity both professionally and personally. It works to analyze my qualifications for gaining employment in my desired profession as an English teacher and in doing so reveals my strengths and weaknesses in the field as well as an portraying my online professional identity in a light that may or may not attract potential employers. There is a list of online identities, of jobs offered in the field, and of current people employed in said field. I attempt to bridge the gap between my real and digital identity and illustrate that my experience may still be lacking in regards to my chosen profession.

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The Future Professional Me

After Graduation:

I want to be an English teacher when I grow up. I initially wanted to teach literature at the college/university level, but now I want to teach high school or middle school English. I’ve always loved literature, more specifically American literature (especially modern literature). I think looking at the American dream and how it has changed over time is a really good way to see how our country as a whole has grown and developed through the years. From believing that just moving here and receiving independence from the oppressive state of Europe was enough to the wealth that living here could provide, to eventually the perversion of this dream into not only exclusion but the isolation that accompanies the attempt to reach the top. The American dream today is one in which happiness can only be reached by obtaining the unobtainable, and thus coming full circle in illustrating the changing of cultural trends over time. I’d like to teach kids about things like this, not this idea specifically, but ideas like this that can form from learning and developing with novels from certain generations from ours and other countries past and present.

English Teacher:

Becoming an English Teacher at the high school or even at the Community College level is in no way as daunting as becoming a college professor in the same field, however it is still not the easiest field to find a job in. You have to find the specific market and that may require some flexibility in that fact that you may have to pick up and move, as the job I may be looking for might not be in this area. Which is why I found three jobs in three different areas.

Job Applications

1. North Carolina <http://k12jobspot.com/Jobs/?ID=450420>

 To apply for this job you must have a valid certification in the area of teaching in North Carolina. No experience is specified though it explains the job as rather challenging in that you must acquire skills that will contribute to the educational and social development of the students you are teaching.

2. New Jersey <http://k12jobspot.com/Jobs/?ID=449908>

 Once again all that it is required is a New Jersey English Certification in teaching (more specifically for grades 9-12). This is a job to teach at an alternative school and once again seems like a rather challenging (yet, rewarding) career field.

3. Indiana http://k12jobspot.com/Jobs/?ID=449531

 This job requires teaching licensure within the state of Indiana, and with that it also recommends experience in project based learning as it is a new tech school.

Linkedin

1. Elaine M. Jolayemi <http://tinyurl.com/clfqu>

She definitely illustrates a lot of experience and hard work. She is flexible as she has held and adapted to many different jobs both at the public education level and at levels of higher learning. Her education also illustrates the need for a masters in this field.

1. Alice Cooper<http://tinyurl.com/c6xw29w>

She currently works at a community college teaching literature and composition. She formally taught at the high school level and illustrated that the way to move up to the community college level is through teaching at the high school, and that her education has helped her maintain a constant job.

1. Dr. Hunter Brimi <http://tinyurl.com/cyqzy6t>

Has been a high school English teacher for over 10 years and through this has realized that the way to continue to engage his students is to continue to reinvent teaching so that it not begin to bore his students and so that his curriculum continues to stay fresh in his mind as well. Has the most experience and the highest education of all the Linkedin profiles I visited.

English Teacher Criteria:

1. Education – all of the teachers I looked at had a masters or higher and the three job applications I looked at required at least a Bachelor’s in English Education.
2. Experience – the teachers I viewed seemed to start off at the high school level, and thus I don’t see this being a huge problem. However, I have no experience teaching, whatsoever.
3. Flexibility –Both the Linkedin profiles and the applications found me looking out of state. If I want a job it is most likely not going to be in the Hampton Roads area, and I have prepared myself for that.
4. Time Management – to be a teacher of any kind you need to put in the 40 or so hours a week in the classroom and then another 40 or so out of the classroom (at least for the first few years) to build up your curriculum and to stay on top of your students grades, how they are learning the material, and make sure that what you are teaching is effective.
5. Work Ethic- this accompanies time management. Just because teachers get their summers off, doesn’t mean they don’t have to stay on top of things not only during the school year, but during the summer months as well. They have to know the material they are teaching and be prepared to answer any questions their students may have.

Conclusion

* Strengths
	+ Flexibility – I am more than willing to move anywhere in the country to find a job in my chosen career field. My family understands this and though we would like to be close together, we know that it might not always be the case. I am also flexible on hours and on the time they may require me to work. For instance I know Oklahoma schools teach all year round, so instead of an entire block of time off there may be small increments throughout the year. Regardless, as long as I’m teaching I’m happy.
	+ Time Management – I am excellent at time management. It is literally what I do everyday at my job. Most people come into a retail job and work their 8 hour shift. They are sitting there and they are counting the seconds until they are off. My job is stocking shelves. I run a night crew, and in doing so we are the oppositve of what is considered normal. We are hoping we have enough time in the night to handle whatever new element may present itself to us. I’m very effective at what I do as most of the time I get us out of there in seven hours or less. I feel that these skills could greatly benefit me when it comes time to balancing a lesson plan (though I am fully aware that I have no complete idea of what is in store for me until I get there.
* Weaknesses
	+ Education – not only do I not have my degree, but also as I just changed career paths I now need a degree in education on top of my degree in English.
	+ Experience – this is something I also lack, and I am aware it was not a big to do on the lists of these people, it is still a valuable asset, but I guess you can’t really get experience teaching until you have actually begun to teach.

Appendices

1. Facebook
	1. Education – my education is offered on Facebook. It states that I have graduated high school and am at ODU
	2. Experience – I do not have my job listed (and it wouldn’t help me in my career path if I did).
	3. Flexibility – can’t really display my willingness to work anywhere when my job isn’t listed.
	4. Time Management – it may show that I spend a lot of wasted time looking at nothing.
	5. Work Ethic – nothing about my work ethic is listed here.
2. Wordpress
	1. Considering I am posting this on my word press it will provide a link to this atnd to my Linkedin which will in turn be a way to look at all of the five categories I feel are necessary to becoming an English teacher.
3. Linkedin
	1. Education – illustrates that I a m on the right track.
	2. Experience – I have none in my desired field.
	3. Flexibility – I am very flexible
	4. Time Management – I explain this in both my interests and through my job.
	5. Work Ethic – I explain this on my Linkedin