

JOB CYCLE TIPS

BY PROGRAM



ANIMATION

- Include a professional demo reel and portfolio website
- Outline your software knowledge with a level of proficiency (beginner, proficient, expert, etc.)
- For collaborative projects, clearly define your role and teamwork in the production process
- Discuss your creative process and technical decision making
- Accept and receive constructive critique professionally



FILM/TV

- Include a diverse demo reel
- Highlight IMDb credits, production experience, union affiliations, equipment proficiency, and specify crew positions
- Be prepared to discuss production schedules, your responsibilities on set, collaboration across departments, problem-solving during shoots, and adapting to changing production needs



GAMING

- Tailor your portfolio to the role
 - Include shipped games, game jams, GitHub, etc.)
- Document your contributions to each project
- Be prepared to explain design choices, what role you play on a team, your problem-solving process, how you handle repetitive development tasks, and how you incorporate consumer feedback



GRAPHIC DESIGN

- Your portfolio will take precedence
 - Include case studies
 - Ensure you have branding consistency
 - Tailor your portfolio work to each employer's industry
- Practice guiding someone through your portfolio:
 - Explain the client problem
 - Elaborate on your design process and decision making
 - Discuss revisions made,
 - Explain balancing creativity/business goals



AUDIO ARTS

- Showcase your online portfolio with a variety of recordings, mixes, podcasts, sound design, and/or production samples
- List known Digital Audio Workstations, recording techniques, and studio equipment experience with level of expertise (beginner, proficient, expert, etc.)
- Highlight listening skills and working under pressure in collaboration with artists
- Be prepared with troubleshooting examples and times you've worked to meet deadlines



JOURNALISM

- Include published works and writing samples that show AP Style proficiency in your portfolio
- Include CMS levels of proficiency (beginner, proficient, expert)
- Ensure that you show a diverse range of abilities through multimedia content that displays digital storytelling skills
- Be prepared to discuss: ethics, meeting deadlines, verifying sources, handling corrections, interviewing techniques, and adapting stories for different audiences

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PHOTOGRAPHY

- Curate your portfolio to reflect the type of photography the employer wants (commercial, portrait, editorial, product, etc.).
- Include editing softwares and studio experiences
- Explain lighting choices, your editing workflow process, client communication challenges and successes, be prepared to describe how you've handled difficult shoots, and deliver quality under deadlines

RADIO



- Include in your portfolio: demo reels with air checks, podcasts, voice-over work, production samples, etc.
- Describe your automation software experience
- Elaborate on your resume FCC knowledge
- Use measurable results to show social media engagement
- Demonstrate strong communication skills, personality, improvisation, interviewing ability, audience engagement, and handling of live broadcasts with professionalism

VIDEO ENGINEERING



- Highlight technical certifications, knowledge and proficiency of softwares and broadcast equipment, networking experiences, experience with live production systems, and examples of times you utilized troubleshooting techniques
 - Show logical thinking, explain how you've resolved equipment failures, and discuss what personal stress management techniques you employ when creating these solutions under pressure

FINE ARTS



- Follow the guidelines of a professional artist portfolio
 - Include exhibition history, commissions, grants, residencies, artist statement, and relevant technical skills
- Be practiced in explaining your artistic vision and creative process
 - Show professionalism and examples of times you were open to feedback

MUSIC



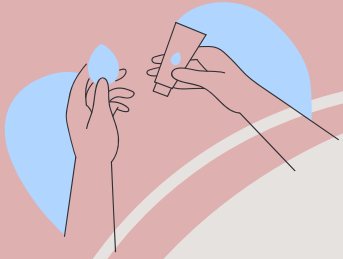
- Submit performance recordings, compositions, repertoire list, production work, and performance history
 - Provide examples of teaching experience, if applicable
- Discuss collaboration, rehearsals, adaptability, sight-reading (if relevant), and maintaining performance quality
- Prepare for your audition and/or performance with a variety of practice audiences and remain open to feedback

THEATER



- Ensure you include a diverse performance reel
- Solicit professional headshot feedback
- Include production credits, special skills, and union affiliations
- Technical theater applicants: include production portfolios and practice walking through it with others
- Prepare for your auditions by gaining feedback from a variety of audiences
- Demonstrate times you took direction well and share insight into how you manage live-performance challenges

GENERAL TIPS



BEFORE APPLYING

- Tailor your resume and portfolio to each position
- Research the employer's recent work, clients, and/or productions
- Include a professional portfolio website with a simple URL
- Quality matters more than quantity - remove items that don't show the full capacity of your quality of work
- Ensure your LinkedIn is up-to-date including your most recent interests



DURING INTERVIEWS

- Be prepared to explain your specific contributions to projects you collaborated on
- Show a willingness and enthusiasm to receiving creative feedback
 - These industries value people who are open to oversight, input, growth, and development
- When asked if you have questions - provide thoughtful inquiries into the team's workflow, creative process, collaboration, and overall expectations

COMMON MISTAKES

- Presenting a poorly organized portfolio
- Not practicing presentation of your portfolio
 - Always ensure you are prepared to explain your work process - Why did you make these decisions? What feedback was given along the way that improved your original plan?
- Focusing solely on your artistic talent and neglecting to highlight your soft skills (ex: communication, collaboration, problem solving, etc.)
- Speaking negatively about former work experiences
 - Always positively highlight lessons learned

