

Missouri Division of Workforce Development

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Should You Embellish Your Resume?

Often, when a company promotes someone to a higher position, they'll send out an email with a bio of that individual smelling only of roses. It's common practice to embellish in the workplace. But should you embellish your resume?

If you're thinking about doing so, there are a few things to consider:

First, you've got to sell yourself. Because if others can sell themselves better, they're going to get the job instead of you. Second, it's best to avoid lying. Besides the obvious risk of being found out and fired or not hired at all, lying on your resume can make for a terrible work experience. Maybe you'll be asked to do something you've never done before or thrown into a high-pressure situation that can only result in failure.

With lying off the table, room for creativity on a resume is small. Still, you could, and probably should, embellish a few things. Part of creating a great resume is knowing how to highlight your skills and experiences in the best way possible. So, if you say "managing office equipment" rather than "sharpening pencils," you're demonstrating an important communication-based skill to employers.

Nobody wants someone on their team who's so blasé that they're going to discuss their company or boss in a less-than-favorable light. So, don't downplay your own achievements on your resume! It is kind of the assigned place to brag about yourself. Go ahead and brag, just be honest!



For additional information about Missouri Division of Workforce Development services, contact a Missouri Job Center near you. Locations and additional information are available at jobs.mo.gov or 1-888-728-JOBS (5627).

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