

Epic Resume Go! 1

# Epic Resume Go!

Resume Creation Made  
Exciting

(SAMPLE)

By Steven Savage

**Epic Resume Go!**  
**Resume Creation Made Exciting**  
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First Edition

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

Thanks to Orville Pearson, who first showed me what writing to help people find work was about. His work is worth reading for everyone interested in the job search:

<http://www.highlyeffectivejobsearch.com/>.

Thanks to Serdar, Lauren, Ewen, Jason, Tamara, Bonnie, and the rest of the “tribe.”

To everyone who supported me on my job searches. Thanks for being there.

**DEDICATION:**

This book is dedicated to every job searcher out there. I hope I manage to help some of you, and in turn you can help others.

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## Introduction

People hate making resumes.

I hear this constantly. They hate the stress of figuring out what goes in, the worry about formatting, the fear of leaving something out. They despise the boredom of putting it together, the drudgery of font sizing, the mind-numbing trudge to space it just right and keep it from being too large or too small.

There's really a lot to hate about resumes.

People also make terrible resumes, so there's a lot to hate if you have to read the blasted things over and over again.

If you've ever helped a friend with one, done an interview with someone, or let a recruiter silently weep on your shoulder, you know there's a lot of awful resumes out there. There are piles of bullet points that make your eyes cross. There are soulless resumes that say nothing. There are incoherent attempts at coherence, where "clarification" only muddies the water.

There are really, really **bad** resumes.

I'm here to help you make sure your resume isn't one of the bad ones, and make sure it's actually interesting to make.

See the solution to bad resumes and the boredom of making resumes is to make them big. Exciting. Epic.

Yes. Epic. Epic Resumes. "The Lord of the Rings" of resumes, only probably much shorter.

6 | Steven Savage

I'm Steve Savage. Project Manager, Geek 2.0, writer, speaker, blogger, raconteur, and a carbon-based life form. I help people out with their job searches and I'm going to help you with your resume.

I could go on, but just read "About the Author" when you have the time. You've got a resume to write and boredom to fight.

Now, before we go on, a quick aside.

This is not the book that is going to make you perfect at resume writing.

There is no one book that's going to do that.

Building a good resume is a skill. It's a skill you'll have to develop over time with a number of experiences, books, teachers, websites, etc. It will take time, but goes far faster when you make a deliberate effort to learn resume creation.

It's also easier when you enjoy resume creation and make it truly, well, creative. That's what this book is for – making a resume as a creative act so you do better at it and enjoy it more. There are other sources of inspiration and guidance – this is just part of your toolkit.

Now with that said, let's get to building those skills.

Let's go and make your resume **Epic**.

## **Chapter 1: The Secret Of The Job Search**

Once, many years ago, I was doing a nationwide job search in the United States (well, about 10 cities/megaregions, but they were all over the country, so that counts). Someone in New York had called me, and I gave him my standard pitch. He paused, laughed, and noted I had my story down pat - I had been doing so many interviews it was automatic.

I joked maybe I should just make a pamphlet, hand it out, and save time from having to go to first interviews. We had a good chuckle, though I didn't get the job, which probably means I wasn't **that** funny.

Of course at the time, I also had what I thought was a pretty good resume. I had improved it over the years, thought it over time and again, improved my technique constantly. It seemed to get people's attention, and it helped get me interviews.

A few years and a new job or two later, I realized why I had gotten those jobs, why I had gotten those responses, why I had shared that laugh.

Constant practice had meant I'd gotten good at telling a story. I was good at talking about me and my life and my career and what it all meant. I was good at putting it in resume form as I'd obsessively tweaked it over the years to tell that story.

I could spin an epic yarn about myself – and had an epic resume to tell my tale as well.

I had come to realize that storytelling was part of the job search.

In the job search you have to explain yourself to people, you have to detail what you can do, you have to tell your tale. Your overall goal is to tell the story so that when you are done, someone else fills in the end.

They fill it in with "you're hired" because the rest of the story is so compelling and it's so obvious that's how it **must** end.

Your resume is a big part of that. Not the only part mind you, but a big part of it. In fact, it may be bigger than you realize, as the creation of one really makes you think about your story. The act of creating a resume (and re-creating it) improves both its ability to tell your story **and** your ability to tell one.

It's also far more interesting when you approach it as a storytelling exercise and not an onerous pursuit.

### **Let's Think Epic**

If you want to make your resume effective - and make it enjoyable to do and discuss - you need to realize you're telling a story when you look for a job.

Story telling is fun, exciting, engaging. It's something that we all do, something that makes us human (perhaps, indeed, one of our most distinct traits). From gatherings around a campfire in a cave to giant Hollywood blockbusters, storytelling is part of who we are as people.

Your job search, as noted, often involves telling a story. As you get into it and tell it, as you appreciate your highs and lows, as you get the meaning of your tale, it becomes as exciting as anything you may read or see. When you tell a good story, others become involved, others become interested – and people who “get” you hire you.



Ever wanted to be a writer or comic artist? You already are, telling the true tale of you in every interview and cover letter, every resume and every application form.

The resume isn't the only part of your storytelling portfolio of course. But it has a unique place in the job search:

- 1) It is a common way to communicate yourself. Sure, I've met some people who have done the job search with no resumes. It hasn't been many people.
- 2) It is an expected part of most job searches so you kind of have to make one anyway just to be sure.
- 3) It makes you think about yourself and your career and find your story. Putting one together is an intense experience of self-exploration.

This third reason is one of the most important reasons for doing a resume (beyond the obvious). It not only helps you tell your tale, it helps you find out what it is in the first place. This makes you better at the job search and better at discussing yourself.

A resume first tells you about yourself before it tells anyone else about you.

Yes, I'm actually saying that building a resume can be good for you even if you don't use it - though I'm betting odds are you will.

So what we're going to do in this book is look at the resume, get a new "Epic Resume" view of it, and use it to not just build a resume, but understand your story. When you build a good resume using your story, then you get the jobs easier - because you tell a story that makes sense and shows where you fit in.

When you also take the “Epic” approach to making a resume it's also more engaging, interesting, and exciting. It keeps you focused, or at least makes you less bored. When you enjoy it you'll make a better resume and do a better job search.

So next up? Let's look at your resume as part of an epic tale, a saga, a Hollywood blockbuster, a bestseller.

Let's get excited. Let's get **Epic**.

**Takeaways:**

- \* A good job search is done by someone who can tell their story and help people understand why they should be hired.
- \* The people doing the hiring essentially end the story for you with "you're hired" - you have to make the tale so compelling that's the logical end.
- \* Resumes are important to job searches as they help tell your story, and also important as they make you think about your story.
- \* You need a way to think of your resume as part of your storytelling to both do it right and extract the most insight from doing it.
- \* Treating a resume as a storytelling exercise helps you stay focused, involved, interested, and even inspired.

## Chapter 2: The Epic Tale of You

Ever watch a big film hit the screen and see the media hype build? Ever noticed how parts of a tale came together? Ever felt really like you "knew" a character and their story even though they were an actor on a screen, cells of animation, or words on a page?

Storytelling and media are powerful. More powerful with good stories and good storytelling behind them.

Each of us has a compelling and powerful story. We've all done great things and overcome odds. We've all worked wonders. We've survived and triumphed and innovated, loved and lost, and gone forward. Chances are your life is pretty interesting, even if it seems dull to you because you're so used to it.

Of course we're not all professional storytellers, even though as humans we're surrounded by stories. That's why so many authors and writers get paid the big bucks, even if at times we look at their works and wonder if was worth it (answer: even being a bad writer takes some talent). Some of us need help telling stories, even those about ourselves.

A resume is a great way to tell your story and to learn about it, because each part of it is like a part of a big blockbuster or great novel. When you realize this, you can make it great, make it effective, and make it interesting to create. Having created it, you can then do better on the job search as you know your story better.

Here's the parts of a good resume through an "epic" viewpoint:

**The Opening Statement** - The first sentence or two on your resume? That's like a movie's catchphrase, the summary of a novel on the back cover, or that quick recommendation a friend gives.

It's the opening backstory in a film, your "It's was the best of times,it was the worst of times," a personal "A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away."

The Opening Statement gives people a “hook” to get interested and sets the tone for your resume-story.

**The Skills Section** - When you list skills, that's people knowing what you can do. That's every scene in a movie or book when you learned about characters by seeing them in action. That's when you realize someone is a scientist or a swordsman, artist or entrepreneur. This section is that moment in the film where the action hero dispatches her opponents without breaking a sweat and you realize she's deadly, or that moment where the clever geek casually corrects someone's computer problem and you know how smart she is.

**The Job History** - Job history is backstory. It tells who you were, what you did, where you're from. That's the flashbacks in films, the revealing discussions in novels. These tell people how you got where you are now.

This is the part of the book or film where you know how the person got where they are - and where you get a true sense of their tale because the history weaves things together. It also ties together all those skills you have and shows where you use them and where they fit in.

**Education** - Much like Job History, Education tells how you got where you are. It says what you learned and gives people an idea of how you grow. It may also show how you've focused in your life – or changed focus (says the guy with a major in Psychology and who worked in IT since 1995)

**Details** - Hobbies, published works, professional associations. These tell more about you. They flesh you out, just like those great scenes in books and films where a simple action or comment make you suddenly "get" a character and get a bigger picture view of them.

That's your resume, your story in summary, with a compelling opening that makes people say "I must know more of this story" and a tale that is told about what you do, where you came from, who you are. Done right, they fill in the ending of your tale - with a job offer.

We're going to explore each section of the resume and how you can not only make it tell your tale, but also how it can tell you a lot about yourself and be exciting. When you're done you'll not only have a good resume, you'll be better able to tell your story, and you'll be more focused on the job at hand.

So let's start with that Opening Statement and reel them in.

**Takeaways:**

- \* The parts of a resume are like parts of a book or film and associated advertising.
- \* Each part of a resume fulfills certain goals.
- \* The parts of a resume work together to tell your story.
- \* The story must come together to make you the obvious hire.

**The Full Book has more chapters, more advice, and more tips to help you in your job search! Purchase the book by going to:**

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## About The Author

Steven Savage is a lifetime geek. Starting with a childhood interest in science, science fiction and computers, to an IT career that started in his twenties, he's never stopped being an unrepentant enthusiast for technology, media, communications, and more.

His goal is to help his fellow geeks take their interests and build on them in their careers, communities, and creations. To this end he writes, speaks, and blogs on careers, creativity, and culture.

He lives in Silicon Valley, which, if you think about it, is really appropriate.

To contact Steve, please visit <http://www.stevensavage.com/>.

Steve's Other Books:

*Focused Fandom: Fanart, Fanartists, and Careers*  
(<http://www.focusedfandom.com/>)

*Focused Fandom: Cosplay, Costuming, and Careers*  
(<http://www.focusedfandom.com/>)

*Fan To Pro: Unlocking Career Insights With Your Hobbies*  
(<http://www.fantoprobook.com/>)

*Convention Career Connection: Putting the Pro Into Your Con*  
(<http://www.conventioncareerconnection.com/>)

*Quest For Employment* (<http://www.questforemployment.com/>)