

Facebook Video Transcript

Let's start with a personal story. Way back in the Spring of 2006, we were looking to hire an intern at our company. As the candidate was coming to interview, I went on Facebook to check them out. I was on Facebook back then, I know, I'm pretty cool. As I checked out Jack's profile, he listed some of his interests as "Smokin blunts with the homies" and "Bustin caps into whitey" and a bunch of other things that I'm actually not at liberty to say on this video. Now, did I think Jack was joking when he wrote this? Of course, I'm fairly confident that he was not killing people. But what did it say about his maturity, his professionalism, and his judgment? Not a lot. Here's the deal, making the hiring decision is a difficult and an incredibly important process. Going into the job search, an employer wants to have as much information as they can about an employee. Remember, they are sinking lots of time and tons of money into that hiring decision. Employers and hiring managers expect you to put your best foot forward; in a resume, during an interview, and even in your online profile. It's estimated that 75% of employers are using Facebook, MySpace, and other online streaming tools. If they find something that's out of place in any of the above, it could ruin your chances of getting a job. Now some folks have argued that a person's private life shouldn't matter when it comes to the job search. So maybe you enjoy a little too much partying, but it's on your own time. Students especially, take issue with people prying into their personal lives. Hey we're not naive; we're not expecting everybody to be perfect. But in reality, your online profile can tell an employer a lot about your professionalism and your judgment. The fact that you think it's acceptable to post pictures of your inappropriate, late night escapades in a public forum says that you have poor judgment. And that's not what potential employers are looking for. You may think it's unfair or you may think it's a double standard, but the reality is that employers are checking out your online profile and they're making decisions based on what they find. I'm not here to tell you what you should or should not do. I'm not here to tell you what you should or should not take pictures of. But what I am here to say is if you ever expect to get a job or an internship do not post that stuff on the world wide web. If there is any questions to what is or is not appropriate check with your career center, believe me, they have seen it all. Oh, and one final thought, I won't get into all the details now but don't think you're okay just because you use your privacy settings. There are ways around it, trust me. Good Luck!