

Josh Brown  
Introduction to American Studies

Transcript of Interview

Josh: Could you please state your name and your job title?

Interviewee: My name is Carl Banks. I am currently a shift supervisor working at McDonald's in Blacksburg.

Josh: And how many hours per week do you work?

Interviewee: It varies usually between 35 and upwards of maybe 45

Josh: So, you would say that you do that year round?

Interviewee: Yeah, usually it's year round

Josh: So, is that a full or part time job?

Interviewee: That's, it's full time, sir.

Josh: And how long have you worked there?

Interviewee: At this McDonald's?

Josh: Yes.

Interviewee: I've worked at this McDonald's about a year and a half.

Josh: And where did you work prior to that?

Interviewee: I worked at DX, which is an on campus dining hall at Virginia Tech.

Josh: And why did you change jobs?

Interviewee: I changed jobs because I was allowed more flexibility in terms of the hours that I wanted to work at McDonald's.

Josh: So, overall would you say you like the McDonald's job more or which one's better?

Interviewee: Uh, they're about the same it's just with McDonald's I get the added flexibility of working more when I want to. But in terms of the type of work it's actually pretty similar.

Josh: Alright, and, what is your least favorite aspect of either of those jobs?

Interviewee: Well they don't pay that well. That's definitely my least favorite aspect, but it's at least steady work.

Josh: And, what's the aspect of your job that you like the most?

Interviewee: Sometimes it can be fun interacting with customers, sometimes they make the job a little easier. So I can have some fun with some people at given times.

Josh: Do you feel like with one of those jobs you were treated with more respect than one of the other ones or would you feel its roughly equal?

Interviewee: Uh, well, it's a little different. Customer wise, at DX it's probably a little more respect because it's a more regular customer base. At McDonald's we have all kinds of people. I mean, we have college students, parents, little kids who walk in and don't show that much respect usually. In terms of coworkers and management and things like that, it's closer to equal in that regard.

Josh: Alright, and on a scale of 1-10 how would you rate working at McDonald's? Like, what type of quality of job would you say it is?

Interviewee: Compared to DX? Or just compared to any other job?

Josh: Just any other job that you've worked at.

Interviewee: Oh, that I've worked at? I don't have that much work experience but, well, that varied over work experience, I've been working for a while, but, uh, if I had to compare it to just any other job I would think with ten being the highest?

Josh: Yes.

Interviewee: Okay, Ten being the highest, maybe 6/7, in that range.

Josh: And how about Xpress where you worked previously?

Interviewee: About the same.

Josh: So, if you had a friend that was looking for a job would you recommend either of these jobs? Or one over the other? Or neither?

Interviewee: If my friend was working in college just trying to work as a student part time, I would definitely recommend DX, uh, just because DX is easy access, especially if you go to Virginia Tech. It's right there on campus. McDonald's, uh, I don't know if I would recommend it, just because it's kind of a hard job to move up too far, you really have to stick with McDonald's for awhile to move up. But if you're just looking for a part time temporary solution, DX is pretty good for a student.

Josh: And what about a full time worker, just not in college, just working, would there be any difference?

Interviewee: Would there be a difference between the two places?

Josh: What you would recommend.

Interviewee: Just someone looking for a fulltime job?

Josh: Yes.

Interviewee: Um, I don't know that I would recommend either. I mean, yeah, I would recommend DX if they were just looking for a temporary job. I don't, yeah, I don't know that I can recommend it as a full time, permanent career type job.

Josh: Alright, I understand. Do you ever wish you had a different job?

Interviewee: Yeah, I mean, yeah, it's not like I pictured myself growing up with just working at a fast food chain its just kind of what I fell into, and I've managed to move up a little bit, so.

Josh: Well, that's good. Where do you see yourself five years from now? Do you think you'll still be at the same job or different job? Will you be in Blacksburg still, do you think?

Interviewee: Well I've been in Blacksburg for a long time. It's really kind of hard to see myself moving. I don't know, I could probably see myself working at the same place, hopefully move up to a higher supervisor though, maybe the store manager at some point. That might take a little while.

Josh: Alright, and, uh, before the interview we were talking about Office Space and they pose a question there that, where one guy asks another if he had a million dollars, what would he want to do? And whatever he answered would be what his dream job would be and what he should go for. If you had a million dollars, where would you want to work?

Interviewee: If I had a million dollars, where would I want to work?

Josh: Yes.

Interviewee: Hm. That's a good question. I would say maybe something in the sports industry, maybe

reporting on sports or something like that.

Josh: And why there?

Interviewee: I just like sports a lot, and I'm always watching SportsCenter and highlights and things like that.

Josh: Do you think your customer skills from your current job would transfer over to something like that?

Interviewee: Well I wouldn't need, I don't think I would need as many customer skills to do that.

Josh: Well maybe not customer skills, but just interacting with people.

Interviewee: Well there's... I think it's more a public speaking thing, so, the fact that I've had a lot of interaction with customers is maybe a little more comfortable to speaking in general when I know I'm speaking to other people.

Josh: And, if there was a high school student who was trying to decide what they should do in terms of academics, should they finish high school, should they go onto college? What would you recommend as someone who has graduated high school and not gone to college?

Interviewee: Just figure out what you really want to do. And if you need to take a year off or so, do that. I wouldn't recommend more than that though, because if you take too much time off, you're never going to go back. So, just make sure you know what you want to do, because otherwise, if you go onto college and you have no clue at all, it can help you if you just talk to your advisors and things like that. But, if you just never figure it out you could just be in school for a good long while, and just be pouring more money down the tubes doing that.

Josh: So you recommend college if you actually have a goal in mind that you're trying to achieve?

Interviewee: Right, well, I would just recommend over all to have a goal in mind. College usually will be a good way to get that. There are some situations where college is not necessary, but those are rare, so overall, I would still recommend college. The bigger advice beyond that though is figure out what you want to do.

Josh: Alright, well is there anything else you would like to add?

Interviewee: Just thank you for being a good interview here.

Josh: Well thank you for allowing me to do this.

Interviewee: No problem.