

Quick References Guide to: References

The line “References Available Upon Request” is NOT necessary on your resume (it’s a given). It is important to have a reference list that you can provide to prospective employers who ask for it. Employers usually ask for references once you are under serious consideration for a job. You’ll need to provide a list of people who will be able to speak well of you and the quality of your work.

- Before using someone as a reference, be sure you request permission. Be sure to discuss the types of positions for which you are applying and provide a copy of your resume for their review. Good choices for references include former supervisors, co-workers, customers, vendors, colleagues, college professors, and club or organization advisors. It is best to avoid character or personal references, unless specifically asked for them. Family and friends aren’t usually considered objective or credible.
- Some employers, usually the Human Resources departments, have a policy in which they will not provide references but will only verify employment – job title, dates, and possibly salary.
- You should not list your references on your resume. Create a separate Word document with your reference list that includes each person’s name, professional relationship to reference, title, address, phone number and email address. Be sure the information you list is correct. If an employer cannot reach your references, s/he may not consider you further for the job!
- Many employers aren’t necessarily interested in seeing reference letters, but it doesn’t hurt to have them, especially if you are a college student, you are relocating, or your company is going out of business. It’s a good idea to ask when you change jobs, so you can build a file. More often, a prospective employer will want to speak with a reference over the telephone to ask specific questions, and more and more often they want to contact references via email to coordinate a time to speak.
- Many academic programs request reference letters as part of the application process, and usually there is a form you must sign that requires you to decide whether or not to waive your right to see the recommendation. As you make your decision, remember that confidential recommendations often hold more weight with admission committees as those letters are perceived as being more honest, and many faculty will not write reference letters unless they are confidential. Other faculty will provide you with a copy of the letter, even if it is confidential. If you have questions or concerns, always discuss with your references.
- Stay in touch with your references throughout your job search process. When you have an interview that seems especially promising, call or email to let them know who might be calling. Once you accept a job offer, let your references know, and be sure to thank them in writing for the help they’ve provided with your job search. Stay in touch so that they become part of your long-term network.

Jordan Jobseeker

456 Main Street
Parma, OH 44129
(440)234-1234

jordan.jobseeker@gmail.com

REFERENCES

Mr. Bob Smith

(Current Supervisor)

Store Manager, Footlocker, Inc. (Champs Sports)
123 ABC Avenue
Strongsville, OH 44149
216-555-1212
Bob.Smith@footlocker.com

Ms. Susan Parker

(Former Supervisor)

General Manager, Subway Restaurant
987 XYZ Road
Maple Heights, OH 44137
216-987-7777
Susan.Parker@subway.com

Dr. Alex Professor

(Current Professor at Cuyahoga Community College)

Assistant Professor, Accounting
11000 W. Pleasant Valley Road
Parma, OH 44130
216-987-5555
Peter.Professor@tri-c.edu