

“What Do You Want to Be When You Grow Up? - Wrong Answer” Cheat Sheet

Big Ideas

- The career question is outdated. Asking students “what do you want to be?” sets them up for stress and narrow thinking in a world where careers are fluid and unpredictable.
- The average Gen Z student will likely change careers 4–7 times.
- We need to teach toolkits, not titles. Skills like writing, speaking, storytelling, digital literacy, and critical thinking are more important than any single job description.
- AI isn't the threat – it's the assist. Professionals and students who know how to harness these tools will be exponentially more effective.

Actionable Advice for Career Professionals

1. Reframe the conversation: Ask students what problems they want to solve or what environments they thrive in.
2. Model and teach experimentation: Treat careers as prototypes.
3. Introduce them to tactical tools: Show them how to use what's out there.
4. Be their AI mentor: Help them build a healthy relationship with AI.

Career Success Toolkit

1. Buy a domain (www.yourname.com) and build a simple website using Squarespace or other low/no code design tools (even canva and mail chimp can help with this)
2. Show your work - build a living online portfolio and resume
3. Create content by playing in different mediums. Where can you crash the gates and create opportunity?
4. Connect with 5 new humans each week - send thank you and intros.
- 5 - How are you going to increase the surface area for serendipity?

Featured AI Tools & Tactics

Tool	What It Does	How You Use It
Otter.ai	Transcribes meetings and notes	Extract themes from mentoring sessions
ChatGPT	AI text assistant	Brainstorming, job prep, resume tweaks
FinalRound.ai	Simulates job interviews/ Live Interview coach/notes	Interview Tools (can be used to cheat/game interviews)
Google Interview Warmup	Practice interview tool	Verbal fluency and prep
NotebookLM	Talk to your notes	Connect ideas across docs
Descript	Video/audio editing with AI	Create student story reels

AI Usage Ideas (For You or Students)

- Summarize long job descriptions or reports
- Compile data and synthesize materials to learn more efficiently
- Build a tutor bot by recording meetings and sessions and asking clarifying questions
- Brainstorm alternate career paths from one degree
- Role-play interview scenarios
- Draft networking emails or outreach messages
- Transcribe mentoring sessions and pull insights
- Build a portfolio site with AI writing assistance

“Your job isn’t to hand out a map. It’s to give them a compass.”
Let’s help students build adaptable toolkits, learn how to learn, and step into careers that don’t even exist yet.

Connect: Ryan Miller | ryan@ryancmiller.com | RustBeltStartup.com | RyanCMiller.com