

Hard Work as a Meat Skinner

Bleh Paw

When I first started working in the U.S., I was happy. I loved to earn money for my family and support them. My job was hard as a meat skinner, but the pay was good. I had a good supervisor and a lot of friends.

My company was strict with the employees. Everyone had to follow the rules. For example, the company gave very limited excused absences. If you exceeded the number of absences, you were

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automatically fired. We had to work hard, but we had good benefits, such as health care and vacation.

Sometimes I'd have problems with one of my co-workers because she was slow, talkative, and always late to work. I told the supervisor, but little was done. I continued to do the best job I could do. I tried not to worry about what my coworker did or didn't do.

Sometimes I felt that certain rules or policies were unfair. For example, if we were one or two minutes late from lunch breaks, we'd have to sign a paper that kept track of our lateness. I talked to the supervisor about my concerns. He encouraged me to keep doing my best. He wanted us to work harder and faster.

Transferring Skills

Make a list of all the skills that Bleh Paw learned on this job. Divide the list into two categories: skills that have to do directly with meat processing, and general work skills that are transferable to other jobs. Make a similar list for your current job.



In my company, we had workers from many countries. I liked interacting with them, and I learned many languages. I learned about appropriate job attire and hygiene. We always had to sanitize our hands. I learned new things such as how to pack, cut, and skin various types of meats and how to operate machines.

At first, my job was very difficult because I've never worked like this before. Sometimes it seemed dangerous, but I was trained in how to operate the machines carefully and safely. As I used the machines more, I became more confident. I learned so much at this job. I've learned interpersonal and team skills that I can use on any other job in the future. Hopefully, I can use these skills at my dream job of being a nurse one day.

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Bleh Paw is a student at Don Bosco School of English in Kansas City, Missouri. Bleh is from Burma. She hopes to be a nurse. For fun, she likes to hang out in her neighborhood and community with her friends and family.