how not to get a job in research
How not to get a job
Ten Things
Thing #1

don’t plan
where do you want to be in 5 years?
industrial labs emphasize practical work
often alone or in small teams
must show relevance
real-world problems
research labs come and go
academe means working with students hard to remain “hands-on” freedom to go pie-in-the-sky job security modulo tenure least publishable unit
Thing #2

procrastinate
it’s (almost) too late
establish a research plan
be ambitious, take baby steps
know to cut losses
Thing #3

don’t publish
publications matter more than <X>
how much is enough
what venues to target
journals – how to and why
ideas vs. systems
Thing #4

never collaborate
your advisor
other students
other faculty
industrial RD labs internships
Thing #5

don’t teach
volunteer to teach (early)
learn to give talks
appreciate complexity
mentor graduate students
Thing #6

hurry
PhD like a car, looses half it’s value when it leaves dealership
fresh PhDs hired on potential
after it’s pretty much WYSIWG
Thing #7

take no advice
listen to other people

criticism often sign unclear exposition

rejection is opportunity to improve
Thing #8

be sloppy
take care of your “image”
people know you through your web page
avoid typos
make sure jokes are funny
learn how to write a CV
Thing #9

avoid conferences
avoid being Stay-At-Home PhD
choose a community
attend conferences, workshops
talk to people, explain your ideas
meet other students – your future colleagues
don’t wait for you advisor to do it for you
Thing #10

take no initiative
get in the driver seat
advisor’s role is to say NO
“ownership” of ideas
one paper that is truly yours
initiative $\Rightarrow$ risk $\Rightarrow$ (failure + blame)
Good Luck!