

The Iceberg

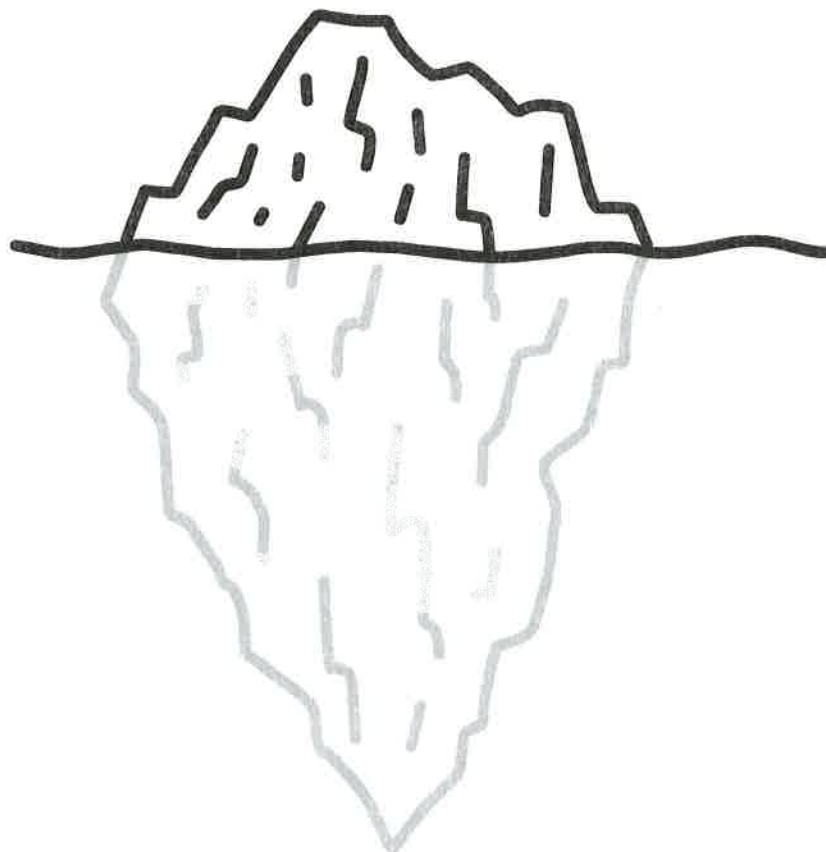
WHAT'S REALLY INVOLVED IN A CAREER?

HOW DOES IT HELP?

The iceberg is a great metaphor for thinking about all that is hidden in a job search. You can use it in several ways, but for this exercise, let's use it to learn more about a career field that interests you.

PICTURE IT!

- Select a career field you've been considering.
- Write what you already know on the part of the iceberg that's above the water line.
- Now, talk to 2-3 people who work in the career field you're considering. Or—do an online search about your career field.
- Write what you learn about that field underneath the water line.



NOW THINK ABOUT IT:

Now that you've learned more about your field, are you still interested?

What surprised you about the field?

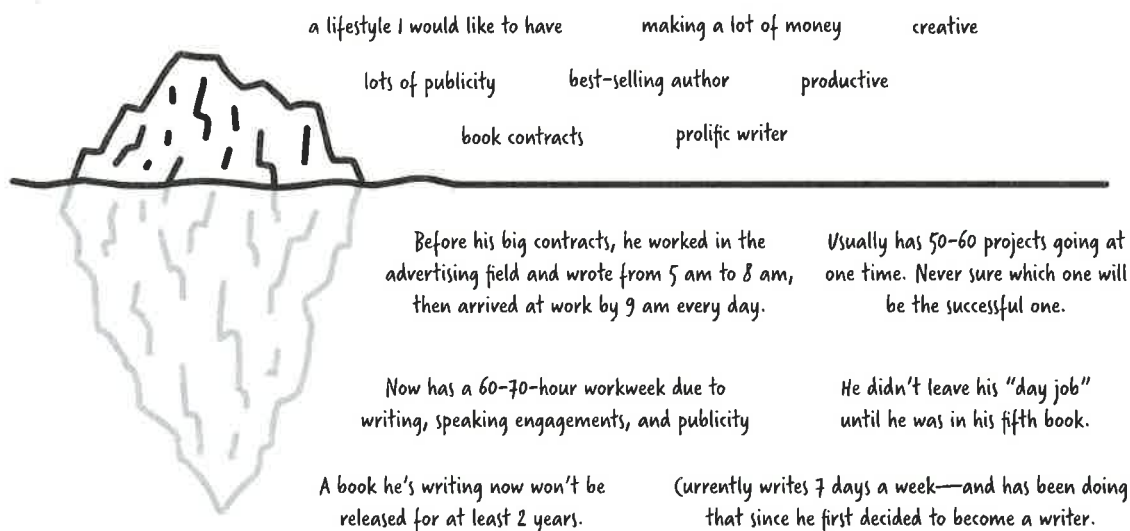
What could you do to learn more?

How could you start getting experience in your field of interest?

Try sharing your iceberg with someone in the field—ask them what you left out.

EXAMPLE:

David has always thought it would be great to have a career as a novelist. An avid reader, he particularly enjoys political thrillers and espionage types of books. He envisioned a life where he could write a book every few years, travel a lot and see new countries, and go to parties and book signings. To learn more about how to shape a career as a writer, he attended a writer's conference. He was excited to see that the keynote speaker was one of his favorite authors: a multi-millionaire prolific writer who is always on the best-seller list.



Analysis: After listening to the keynote speech where the writer described his system for writing books, David had a new appreciation for how much work it took to become that famous and to be such a prolific writer. He still plans to write, but he realizes now that he needs to get a paying job first and write on the side until he is successful enough to write full-time.