Name:

Dear Career Coach

Aligned to the following standards:
CS.05, FFA.PL-A1, FFA.PL-A3, FFA.PL-A5, FFA.PL-A8, FFA.PL-C1, FFA.PL-D2, FFA.PL-D3, FFA.PL-E3, FFA.PL-F1, FFA.PL-F2, FFA.PL-F3, FFA.PG-I1, FFA.PG-I2, FFA.PG-I5, FFA.PG-J1, FFA.PG-J2, FFA.PG-J3, FFA.PG-J4, FFA.PG-K3, FFA.CS-M1, FFA.CS-M2, FFA.CS-N4, FFA.CS-O2, FFA.CS-03, AG5, AGC08.01, AGC09.01, AGC09.02, CCSS.RI.9-10.1, CCSS.RI.9-10.2, CCSS.RI.9-10.4, CCSS.W.9-10.1, CCSS.W.9-10.2, CCSS.W.9-10.4, CCSS.W.9-10.7, CCSS.W.9-10.8, CCSS.W.9-12.9, CCSS.SL.9-10.1, CCSS.RST.9-10.8, CCSS.RST.9-10.9, CCSS.WHST.9-10.1, CCSS.WHST.9-10.2, CCSS.WHST.9-10.4, CCSS.WHST.9-10.6, CRP.02, CRP.04, CRP.07, CRP.08, CRP.10, CRP.11

Directions:

AgCareers.com has created a new space on their website called “Dear Career Coach” where students can submit questions to receive advice for their career challenges. You are hired as the Career Coach and need to respond to six questions by the end of the week to be published on the website. The questions all happen to fit into the themes from the recent edition of the Food and Agriculture Career Guide (https://www.agcareers.com/ag-and-food-career-guide/2025/US/). Use the magazine to help you respond to the student questions.

Standing Out as a New Graduate

Dear Career Coach,
I’m about to graduate, and I feel nervous about competing against candidates with more experience. How can I stand out and show employers that I’m worth hiring even though I’m just starting out?
—Emily, Overachiever State University

Your Response:

Following Up After Interviews

Dear Career Coach,
I just finished a really exciting job interview, but now I’m not sure what to do while I wait for their decision. Should I follow up, and if so, what’s the right way to do it without being annoying?
—Marcus, Awkard Silence College

Your Response:

Avoiding AI Red Flags in Resumes/Cover Letters

Dear Career Coach,
I’ve been using AI tools to help me write my resume and cover letters, but I’m worried they don’t sound like “me.” How can I use AI without making my applications look fake or unprofessional?
—Sophia, Copy-Paste Polytech

Your Response:

Speaking Up and Being Respected at Work

Dear Career Coach,
I just started my first job, and I sometimes feel too inexperienced to share my ideas in meetings. How can I speak up in a way that earns respect without sounding like I don’t know what I’m talking about?
—Caleb, Shy Guy University

Your Response:

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Name:

Networking Effectively	**Evaluating Job Offers**
Dear Career Coach, *I know everyone says networking is important, but I feel awkward at events and don't know what to say to strangers. What are some practical ways I can start building real connections in the agriculture industry?* *—Aaliyah, Small Talk State*	*Dear Career Coach,* *I just received my first job offer, and I'm thrilled! However, I don't know how to tell if it's actually a good offer. Besides the salary, what should I be looking at to make the best decision for my future?* *—Jackson, Dollar Signs University*
Your Response:	**Your Response:**

1. Which career questions do you relate to the most right now? Why?

2. While writing responses, what is one career skill or strategy that you learned?

3. How can you apply that career skill or strategy to your life right now?

4. If you were writing your own "Dear Career Coach" letter today, what question would you ask? Explain.

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