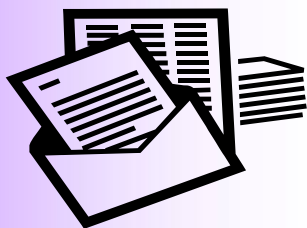


# Cover Letter Tips



Here are a few tips to make your résumé more effective:

- A tailored cover letter may be used to accompany a résumé.
- Address the letter to the contact person or to the Human Resources Director.
- Use standard business letter format.
- Use a font size of 10 to 14 points.
- Use non-decorative typefaces. Choose one typeface and stick to it.
- Cover letters should be individually typed and signed.
- Use terms and phrases that are meaningful to the employer.
- Minimize jargon, abbreviations, and contractions and be concise.
- Check your letter for errors and grammatical correctness.
- Pay special attention to the job description as it provides specific cover letter instructions.

While your résumé is a summary of your credentials, your cover letter can be an effective marketing tool. Your aim is to demonstrate why your education, work experience, skills, and background uniquely qualify you for the position you're applying for.

A cover letter should contain three main sections:

## FIRST PARAGRAPH

- Identify the position for which you are applying.
- State how you learned of the position and why you are interested in the position or organization.

## SECOND PARAGRAPH

- Summarize why you are a strong candidate for the position.
- Target the job description and specifically discuss how your skills relate to the job requirements.
- Highlight one or two of your accomplishments or abilities that show you are an excellent candidate for the position.
- Detail positive characteristics and past experiences that illustrate how your qualifications will benefit the organization.

## CLOSING PARAGRAPH

- Thank the person for considering your résumé and offer to provide additional information.
- Include your phone number and when you can be reached.

See sample cover letter!



Michigan Civil Service Commission, Career Services  
400 South Pine Street • P.O. Box 30002 • Lansing, MI 48909  
800-788-1766 (voice) • 517-373-3030 (voice) • 517-335-0191 (TTY)  
Detroit Regional Office • Cadillac Place  
3042 West Grand Boulevard • Suite 4-400 • Detroit, MI 48202  
313-456-4400 (voice) • 313-456-4409 (TTY)

[www.michigan.gov/mdcs](http://www.michigan.gov/mdcs)

1908 Anystreet  
Lansing, MI 48909  
August 1, 2xxx

Mary Smith  
Recruiter  
Department of ABC  
123 Main Street  
Anytown, MI 55555

Dear Ms. Smith:

I am writing in response to your posting on the State of Michigan Vacancy Posting site for the Human Resources Analyst position. I believe my qualifications make me an excellent candidate for the position.

I possess more than seven years of human resources experience in recruitment and staffing, benefits administration, and workforce planning. Throughout my career I have demonstrated the ability to establish excellent client relationships and to develop and implement innovative solutions to address a wide variety of human resources challenges. I have excellent organizational abilities and strong decision-making skills.

Enclosed is my résumé for your review. I would appreciate the chance to meet with you to discuss the ways in which I can help the Department of ABC achieve its goals and objectives. I can be reached at the phone numbers listed on my résumé.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Iwant A. Job*

Iwant A. Job

Enclosure