

Eaton Lawrence

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Field Trip to United Federation of Teachers

When I went to the UFT, Print Shop, the outside building looked like a business building. We waited in the lobby and then were taken to the basement. Our tour guide was a man named Oscar. He was the head worker. He had been working there for forty-four years and will be working there for seven more years until he retired. He told us how he chose this profession. True be told, he told us he didn't know what to do with his life. He says he flipped a coin.

He gave us advice on what to do if we ever have a job like his. One thing we must always remember always do work as cheaply as possible. Never waste time or money on printing. When a client asks you to print something always do the job as cheaply as possible. For example. if you need to make 1000 copies of a poster, use 500 sheets on 11x17" inch paper to make doubles on 500 sheets.

The first printer he showed us was the inkjet printer. The inkjet is the latest model. Next he showed us the vertical copier. It's cheaper and the vertical copier has good quality, but the inkjet has better quality. Digital Offset press has 4 different blankets that help laser the image. He also showed us a Traditional printer that has a image fixed on the plate. The plate is rubber sometimes. On a Traditional printer that letterpress is put together by hand. Letterpress is in fashion right now with the newest generation. The regular sheets that are used are rubber based,

but there are new sheets that give the image a glossy finish. This is oil based and it needs a different type of ink. Another printer we saw is a Baby web. It's called that because it's has just one continuous sheet. The last machine we saw was a shredder. A powerful one that could destroy a stapler.

Oscar gave us more advice before we left. It's important to know that clients always need things in a rush, and they need it as soon as possible. Clients only want the best. Don't make things too costly and you must always stay current and up-to-date. You need to know your audience.