Abstract: Though curiosity about nature and the romance of discovery are what draw us to a research career, landing a permanent research position also requires hard-headed self-analysis and a realistic approach to the scientific marketplace. I will explore the dimensions of the two key issues: What are your interests and capabilities, and what does your audience expect from you? I will focus on ways to establish a scientific identity and generally to persuade the research community that it wants you as a permanent member.

Since 1974, solid state physicist, Peter J. Feibelman has been at Sandia National Laboratories, where he is a Senior Scientist. He received a Ph.D. in physics from the University of California at San Diego in 1967, did postdoctoral research at the C.E.N. Saclay (France) and the University of Illinois (Urbana), then spent three years as assistant professor of physics at Stony Brook University. In 1989 Feibelman received the Davisson-Germer Prize of the American Physical Society for "pioneering work in developing the theory of electromagnetic fields at surfaces," and in 1996, the AVS Medard W. Welch Award for "insightful predictions and explanations of surface phenomena based on first-principles calculations." He is the author of A PHD IS NOT ENOUGH: A GUIDE TO SURVIVAL IN SCIENCE.

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