

# Evaluate your career and find a job you will love

by **Becky Dieter**

You are tired of the politics at your job. You want to make more money. You hate your boss, or you are bored. Sound familiar? You are unhappy at your job and have decided to rush into beginning to look for a new career. So where do you start? How do you choose a new career? Where do you apply? What website should you use?

The answers to these questions are... put the brakes on! Slow down! Take a step back. You are at a career crossroad. What you need to do is take the time to really look at your current career before switching gears. Sometimes the fear of dealing with the current job situation, or lack of knowledge of how to go about changing your environment, causes people to jump ship in order to avoid dealing with the true issue. So it is important to take the time to evaluate your current situation. Is there something you are avoiding dealing with? What is really lacking or making you unhappy? Is there something you can change where you currently work? These are all important questions to explore before moving forward.

Here is an example of what I mean:

Judy had a marketing degree and was working in the marketing department of a small corporation. She was unhappy at her job and wanted to change careers. I spent time with Judy looking at why she had chosen marketing and what she liked and disliked about her two marketing jobs. After some exploration, it became clear that two things were important to Judy and were currently lacking in her job. She wanted a mentor and she wanted more client contact. Both of these things she could remedy either at her current job or a new job. Changing her career entirely was not necessarily the answer for Judy.

If, after looking at your situation, you feel the solution is to leave your current job, building a profile of the ideal job is a great place to start. Looking at past jobs and identifying what worked or didn't work, what you liked or disliked, will begin the exploration. The evaluation of your values and strengths are critical components of your job profile. Your profile should also include the basics: commuting distance, dress, hours, style of management—or even if you want to work for someone else. If you take the time to honestly analyze all these components and create an ideal job profile, there is a better chance that your ultimate choice will be a career that you can enjoy.

So, before you start running out there on all the websites and applying for any job, or investing in training or schooling, take a step back and evaluate things a bit. It is time well spent that will, in the long run, go a long way to helping you find a more lasting solution and a career you can love!

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