

We all have to make a living, but why not make your career more than just a job and a paycheck. Each day at work will be more fulfilling if what you do fits what you believe.

If you believe you're here to help others, then a career as a teacher, doctor, or police officer may be right for you.

If you believe you're here to enjoy yourself, then you may choose a career that gives you the most free time for recreation or the most money to live the good life.

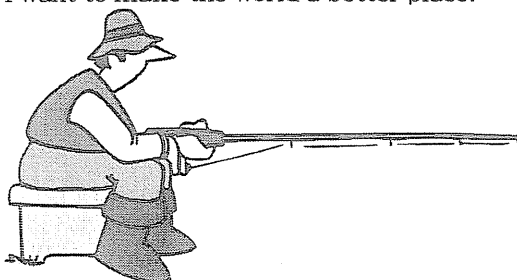
If you believe you should change the world, then you may choose to be a scientist, engineer, or politician.

Of course, your philosophy is probably not just one dimensional. It may have several aspects. And it may change over time. The more experiences you have, the more clearly you may see yourself and the world. As a result, you may have more than one career during your lifetime.

But first things first, let's see if you can describe what you believe here and now and find some careers that fit those beliefs.

Here's some statements that may help you think about your personal philosophy.

- I'm here to help others.
- It's every man for himself.
- Greed is good.
- I live to work.
- Life is short - enjoy it.
- I work to live.
- I've got to be me.
- I want to make a difference.
- I thrive on competition.
- It's about us, not just me.
- I want to work as little as possible.
- I plan to die at my desk.
- I want to lead, not follow.
- I want to make the world a better place.



Think About It!

1. Write several statements that would explain your personal philosophy about life and work.

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2. List ten careers you believe would fit your personal philosophy.

1. _____
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3. If you had to choose today, which of the ten careers you listed would you pick?

Why? _____

Name: _____

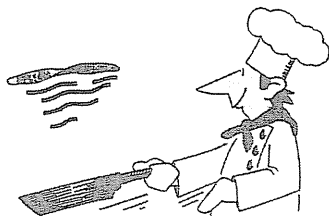
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Everyone has unique talents, assets, and skills and so do you. You just have to look at yourself and see them. Think about what you like to do. Many times what you like is what you're good at. That's why you like to do it.

Whatever your abilities, there are careers out there that fit them and there may even be that perfect career that brings them all together. You just have to look for it.

Here are some skills and assets that may help you think about your own.

- I am good at mathematics
- I am athletic
- I write well
- I am well organized
- I am beautiful
- I am very patient
- I am a good leader
- I can think logically
- I am persistent
- People like me
- I have a good speaking voice
- I work well with others
- I am good with machines
- I have a knack for languages
- I am good with children
- I am a great listener
- I have a good singing voice
- I am good with sick people
- I can see the big picture
- I am dependable
- I am good at games
- I am reliable
- I can take things apart and put them back together
- I can work alone for long periods
- I can play the piano, etc.....
- I am an excellent driver
- I am funny
- I am good with details
- I manage my time well
- I am good with tools
- I can understand statistics
- I communicate well
- I am a good actor
- I read quickly
- I can draw
- I am adventurous
- I am good with computers



Think About It!

1. List your personal skills and assets.

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- _____
- _____
- _____
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- _____
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- _____
- _____
- _____

2. List ten careers you believe would fit your skills and assets.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
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3. If you had to choose today, which of the ten careers you listed would you pick?

Why? _____

Name: _____

Class: _____ Period: _____

There's a whole world waiting for you and you just have to decide where you want to work.

There are even careers that will let you travel as much as you like. You could be a travel guide, a pilot or airline attendant, you could work on a cruise ship, or you could join the navy and see the world.

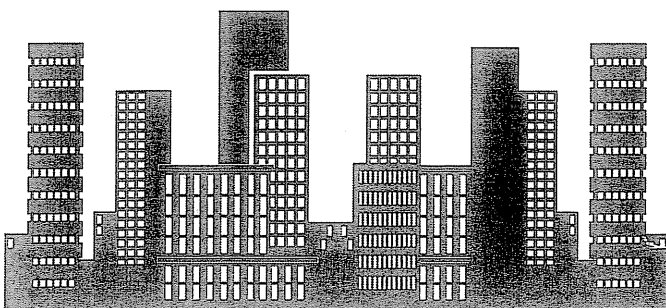
Or you can just stay home. With today's advanced telecommunications, there are hundreds of jobs that will let you live where you want, work from home, and never go to the office.

Sure there are factors in your life that may limit where you actually end up working - family obligations, marriage, even your career itself (it's hard to be a museum curator in a small town).

But start by thinking about where you would really like to be and you may be surprised by all the possibilities.

Here are some examples to help you think about where you would like to work. You can also use the maps on page 4 as a reference.

- I want to work in the United States.
- I want to work in Japan, etc.....
- I want to work in the west, east, etc....
- I want to work in a place different from where I grew up
- I want to work in the mountains
- I want to work in a warm climate
- I want to work on a ranch
- I want to work in a forest
- I want to work near the ocean
- I want to work in the desert
- I want to work in a remote setting
- I want to work in a small town
- I want to work in the city



Think About It!

1. list 10 geographical and physical characteristics of the place you would like to work.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

2. List the locations that would fit the characteristics you described above.

Country:

Region:

State:

City, town, etc:

Name: _____

Class: _____ Period: _____



Name: _____ Class: _____ Period: _____

The environment you want to work in is certainly related to the geographic place you want to work, but it is more than just that.

It's the space you work in and how you work from day to day. It's the working conditions and workplace atmosphere.

Here are some examples to help you think about the environment you want to work in:

- I want to work indoors
- I want my weekends free
- I want to work on a fixed schedule
- I want to work as part of team
- I want my own office
- I want to be able to come and go as I please
- I want to work alone
- I want to work 9 to 5
- I want to work where there is no stress
- I want to work at my own speed
- I do not want to be the person responsible
- I do not want to take orders
- I want to be given specific directions
- I want to know what I'll be doing each day
- I want to work in a competitive environment
- I want a secure job
- I want to know my place in the organization
- I want to feel free to speak my mind
- I want to be surprised each day



Think About It!

1. List 10 working conditions that would make you happiest and most productive.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
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7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

2. List ten careers you believe would fit your environment.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

3. If you had to choose today, which of the ten careers you listed would you pick?

Why? _____

Name: _____

Class: _____ Period: _____

There are certainly jobs that allow you to spend a lot of time alone, but most careers involve working with people on a daily basis.

As you'll see in a later chapter, getting along with your coworkers and boss can be one of the most challenging parts of your job. Succeeding at work can depend on how you succeed with other people.

Each of us is different and it takes hard work to overcome those differences and get things done.

It's important that you choose a career that's going to let you be comfortable and enjoy the people you work with. If you don't think you'd like being in a room with twenty-five school children each day, I would pass on being an elementary teacher.

Here's some examples to help you think about the people you would like to work with.

- Children
- People who are different from me
- People my age
- People who need my help
- People who share my goals
- People who share my values
- Senior citizens
- The disabled
- Smart people
- People that I respect
- People that I can control
- Talented people
- People who look up to me
- Criminals
- Poor people
- Famous people
- Rich People
- Teenagers
- Families
- Professionals
- Athletes
- Artists
- Creative people
- Powerful people
- Everyday people
- Family members
- Babies
- Competitive people
- Scientists
- Writers
- Politicians
- Serious people
- The best at what I choose to do



Think About It!

1. List several different types of people you would like to work with.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

2. List ten careers you believe would allow you to work with these people.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

3. If you had to choose today, which of the ten careers you listed would you pick?

Why? _____

Name: _____

Class: _____ Period: _____

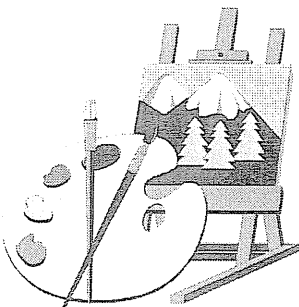
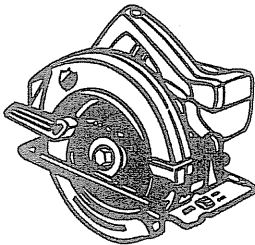
Every day at work you'll be involved with things, both concrete and abstract.

Most of the things you like to work with are probably related to your skills and talents which you thought about earlier. Looking at those things will help you focus in on a career that fits you.

For example, if you know you're mechanical, then you probably like to work with machines - that's obvious. But do you like to work with computers or cars or both. And do you like to work with people or not. Considering all these things together will make a difference in how you decide to use your mechanical skills in a career.

Here's a list to help you think about the things you would like to work with:

- Machinery
- Ideas
- Computers
- Wild Animals
- Numbers
- People
- Plants
- Art Objects
- Tools
- Cars
- Planes
- Farm Machinery
- Domestic Animals
- Cameras
- Software
- Money
- Jewelry
- Manuscripts
- Home Furnishings
- Food
- Minerals
- Clothing
- Colors
- Concepts
- Toys
- Antiques
- Books
- Chemicals
- Boats
- Fish
- Statistics
- Building Materials
- Words
- Feelings
- Problems
- Wood



Think About It!

1. List 10 different types of things you like to work with.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

2. List ten careers you believe would allow you to work with these things.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
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10. _____

3. If you had to choose today, which of the ten careers you listed would you pick?

Why? _____

Name: _____

Class: _____

Period: _____

Let's think about what you want to accomplish during your career - what goals you want to reach.

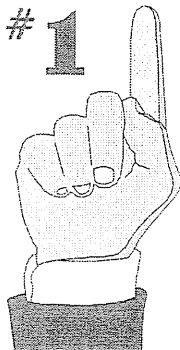
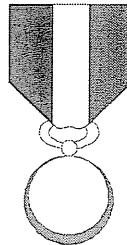
Everyone needs both short and long term goals to motivate them, keep them flexible, and make the time they spend at work satisfying and fulfilling.

Working without goals leaves you without purpose and direction. It's unlikely that you'll get ahead if you're seen as a person who just shows up. Lack of motivation is not a quality employers are looking for. In fact a common interview question is: "Where do you want to be five, ten, and twenty years from now?".

People without goals find that things happen to them and they're usually bad things like not getting promoted or being laid off. People with goals make things happen because they know where they're going.

Here are some short and long term goals that will help you think about what you want to accomplish during your career:

- I want to make a lot of money
- I want to be the best at what I do
- I want to earn a college degree
- I want to find a good job in my chosen field
- I want to be a partner by age 30
- I want to be working in my chosen field by age.....
- I want people to recognize my talent
- I want to work full-time after high school graduation.
- I want to be respected by my peers
- I want to own my own business
- I want to run a large corporation
- I want to be promoted regularly
- I want to make more money than my parents
- I want to be famous
- I want to be powerful
- I want to invent something
- I want to do one thing very well
- I want to be independent
- I want to be an employer, not an employee
- I never want to be unemployed



Think About It!

1. List several short and long term career goals.

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2. What career goals do you want to reach by age 25?

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- _____
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- _____

3. What career goals do you want to reach by age 30?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

4. What career goals do you want to reach by age 40?

- _____
- _____
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- _____

5. What career goals do you want to reach by age 50?

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Name: _____

Class: _____ Period: _____

We all want to be recognized and rewarded for the work we do.

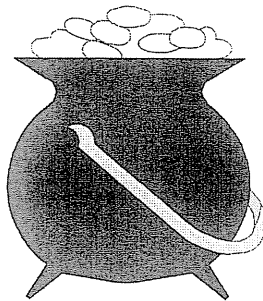
For most of us, money is a necessary reward because we have to earn a living. But we don't just want to be paid enough to get by. At the very least, we want to earn a fair wage for what we do and we hope to be paid what we believe we're worth. In honesty, most of us want to make as much as we can.

Many people define themselves by how much they make compared to others. We like to make more than the other guy. It's the rare person who isn't interested in money.

But it's also true that most people want more than just money for what they do. Money is necessary, but not usually sufficient. You may, in fact, be willing to earn less if your work is recognized in other ways.

Here are some examples to help you think about how you want to be rewarded for your work

- I want to be rich
- I want job satisfaction
- I want a lot of leisure time
- I want power
- I want to be promoted
- I want to be famous
- I want an impressive job title
- I want to be of service to others
- I want to gain as much knowledge as I can
- I want to be recognized as the best in my field
- I want to be honored by my peers
- I want to be thanked for my efforts



Thank You!

Think About It!

1. List several different types of rewards you want from your career.

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2. List ten careers you believe will allow you to earn the rewards you want.

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3. If you had to choose today, which of the ten careers you listed would you pick?

Why? _____

Name: _____

Class: _____ Period: _____

Using the concepts you thought about on pages 1-9, write a description of yourself and the careers you think might fit you the best.

