



Are you prepared to make a career change? *Read this article on how you can put yourself in the driver's seat again!*

Are you ready for a change in your career? Do you feel like you're suffocating in your job? Do you dread Monday morning? Did you blindly follow a career path and are now just realizing you hate what you do?

You and thousands of others are going through this struggle.... *Read on to see how you can avoid the career changing pitfalls...*

Changing careers is one of the biggest decisions job-seekers face today. An unforgiving job market makes it that much scarier. Fortunately, there are steps you can take to make a smooth transition. It's all about being prepared.

Make a Plan

First, be patient. A successful career change often takes months to accomplish. Review your ultimate goal.

- **Evaluate your skills** that may transfer to the next job. What skills do you have thus far that will work in your dream job? What do you need to do to gain those skills if you don't already have them?
 - ✓ **Education / Training**
 - Take a class to fill that skill gap.
 - Use your current position to gain those skills. For instance, take a class at work to improve that skill or volunteer for a project that will tap into those skills.
 - Volunteer outside of work to gain necessary skills. For instance, volunteer with an organization that is closely tied into what your ultimate goal is.
- **Review your finances.** Determine the finance strategy for this career move. Will this new career pay more or less? If less, have you put a plan into place to prepare?
- **Research, research, research.** Do you really know what this new career looks like or does it just look like your favorite character makes it look exciting on TV? The internet and library both provide a great deal of information on careers.
 - ✓ **Networking**
(See networking and informational interviewing services on Walkup Career Management website).
 - The more you involve yourself in getting to know this new career, the more you understand the reality of the job. Meet with people who perform the job and shadow them if possible. They give you the

candid, insider scoop on the job. This also gives you a connection inside your new career world making it easier to transition in with their organization. (See more information below on Networking).

Network...Find a Mentor! People underestimate the power of networking. There are strategies that even introverts can use. Some of you would rather get a root canal than put yourself out there and introduce yourself to a room full of strangers. If you're planning on making a career change, networking is one of the most effective ways to get a job. Research different groups in your area of interest. These are the people who are in the industry who not only have a pulse on the industry but who also have the inside scoop in their respective company. They will either be your contact or they may lead you to key contacts in their company. The next step then is an Informational Interview. Be prepared to ask the right questions to the contact so that the Informational Interview will actually lead to a position. *Walkup Career Management offers coaching in both Networking and Informational Interviews.*

Leave old career on a good note. It's the old adage that continues to remain important today; Don't Burn Bridges. The obvious reason you want to leave on good terms is that you never know when you may cross paths with these people in the future. You need to take the time to analyze whether it is the employer/boss you dislike or the skills/work itself that is giving you those negative feelings.

The not so obvious reason you should leave on good terms is that it is just not healthy to carry that negativity with you. You don't want to position yourself so that you are running away from something, rather be positive that you are *running toward* a new opportunity. Having a positive mindset makes all the difference in the world.

Look at entire career changing package. If you only have \$\$\$ on your mind then perhaps you should do more research on your new career. \$\$\$ does not always = happiness. It may be gratifying for awhile, but study after study shows there is little correlation between job satisfaction and money. Feeling like you make a difference, believing in what you do, and prestige are factors that score much higher in satisfaction.

Assess your situation by evaluating likes, dislikes, strengths, weaknesses. *Walkup Career Management partners with Profiling Pro* to assist clients in how they perceive themselves and others. Through personalized information, clients have the opportunity to immediately increase their knowledge of themselves and others using these behavioral assessments resulting in increased effectiveness and productivity. So what does all of this mean? The more you know yourself, the more successful and happy you'll be in your career. When you make a change, make sure it is the right one.

Keeping up with the Joneses? Do you admire your neighbor's work? Does your friend constantly go on and on about how much they love their job? Do you have the grass is greener syndrome? What is right for someone else may not be right for you. Think about what you like and don't like about your job. You may either fall in love with it again or maybe you really are looking for a change. If it is the latter, make sure it is a

change that makes sense for you. It may not be what your neighbor, friend, family member is doing but research and homework on your part will lead you to change that is right for you.

Final Note. You are in the driver's seat. Not your boss, not your co-worker, not your friend, not your significant other, not your neighbor. Everyone has a unique set of skills and interests and we have this one life to live to showcase them. Walkup Career Management wants to make sure your look forward to Monday morning again!

Nancy Walkup specializes in assisting clients in changing careers. She is committed to putting people in the driver's seat of their career. Uncover what it is you love to do and create a path to reach your goal. Contact Nancy at Walkup Career Management to learn more career changing services and more!

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