



**RESOURCE**

**DEFINE YOUR  
CAREER SEARCH**

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# Define Your Career Search

## REFLECTION

As you begin a search for a new role, it is important to consider what is most important to you. You'll factor in what you like and dislike about previous roles, and consider who you want to be in the future..

**1 What type of work environment do I feel most comfortable in?** Be very specific here. For instance, think of a bad job you've had (at any period of your life). What was it about the "environment" (the people, physical setup, culture) that rubbed you the wrong way?

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- How can your thoughts here help you steer clear of crappy jobs in the future?

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- Conversely, what is one of the best jobs you've ever had? What was it about the "environment" (the people, physical setup, culture) that invigorated you?

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- How can your reflection here guide you toward the "right" career/job in the future?

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- What type of culture do you want to work in as you move forward? Consider what you might know about the culture of some of the career options you put on your possibilities list and cross any items that don't seem to align with your values.

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# Define Your Career Search

**3 Do I have a desire to work for myself?** Get a very clear visual of yourself in this new role. What does it look like, and how does it make you feel?

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- Take a moment to define what fulfilling work means to you. What are YOU looking for? Consider some of these elements: can I handle billing clients and collecting payment on my own? Can I be successful in acquiring and keeping my own clients?

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- Is there a need for my type of work? Am I good at it? Does anyone want me to provide this type of service?

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- Is going into business for myself physically, logistically, and emotionally possible? Some things actually are easier within an organizational setting!

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# Define Your Career Search

**4** How much do I value work-life balance and what does it mean to me? If you have family and commitments outside of work, how much of yourself are you honestly willing to invest in work?

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• Is my passion leading me to pour MORE or LESS of myself into my professional life?

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• Can I or would I prefer to be more free to spend time with loved ones outside of work?

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• How does my spouse's earning power factor in?

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*As you consider these questions and answers you've just done, which career choices seem to resonate with you most deeply?*