



## Do You Need A Career Change?

Maybe.

Before you head for the exits, are you sure you really need a career change? Are you sure that whatever ails you at your current field won't follow you to your new field? Are you sure you don't simply need a vacation or a new boss?

If you can't answer each of these questions with a resounding, absolutely decisive "YES!", you should put the files boxes and family photos down, change your voicemail back to your "in-the-office" message and sink back into your cubicle. You are not ready for what's on the other side of the decision to change careers!



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Don't worry. You can get ready. It may take a little time, but once you're really ready you can escape your old career and never look back?

Here's how.

**1** First, zero in on what's really wrong with your current career--Is it your boss? Your work environment? Your colleagues? Your lack of growth prospects? Work not challenging enough? The money? The hours?

Be specific. You need to be absolutely certain of the reasons you are considering leaving.

If your answers are centered around your boss, colleagues, work environment or pay, you don't need a career change; you need a job change.

If your answers center on the type of work you do, your feelings about the work, your need to do something more challenging, more fulfilling or more flexible, you may need a career change.

**2** If you do need a career change, find a way to profit from your passion. Everyone should have an opportunity to feel good about what they do. That said, everyone should also be able to pay their

bills. The trick is to find a job that allows you both. Do this by researching the market for your talents. Even professional sandcastle builders can earn six figures.

Can't pinpoint your passions?

Start by answering these five questions.

### Profit From Your Passions

- What are you most happy doing?
- What are you naturally best at?
- In what environments are you most inspired or motivated?
- My life would not be complete if I didn't have \_\_\_\_ (Fill in the blank).
- Security means \_\_\_\_ to me (Fill in the blank).

**3** Consider taking career interest and aptitude tests, attending university extension classes and asking for informational interviews with people working in careers you think you might like.

**4** Moonlight! Keep your steady income while testing a new field part-time or as a volunteer.

**5** Start fishing! Craft a fishing letter, reformat your resume and start circulating them via your professional and friend networks (Much more effective than rocketing 100's of resumes to recruiters and job boards).

**6** Keep reading  
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