

Examine your current situation to find job that fits

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When it comes to our jobs, we all have days when we think maybe the grass is greener on the other side. Right?

Whether it's your job, the office culture or your co-workers, if there is something that makes you dread Monday mornings, it may be time to make a change.

Changing jobs, whether moving to another department, company or profession, is a workplace reality. Labor statistics show young people entering the work force today are likely to change jobs seven to 10 times in their careers.

But before you rush into a voluntary job change, take some time to develop a strategy to help make sure you land a better job.

You'll need to assess your current situation before beginning a job search. Otherwise, you might end up in a similar situation. Ask yourself these questions:

- Am I happy with my work?
- Am I challenged by my work?
- Is there opportunity for me to advance?
- Am I satisfied with my benefits?
- Am I paid fairly?
- Is my job too stressful?
- How do I feel about my office environment, hours of work and co-workers?

Knowing yourself and what makes you happy is instrumental in finding the right job. And happy employees are more productive, which is a benefit to employers in the long run. If you've concluded that you're ready for a new job, think of it as an opportunity and a chance to improve your career. Ask yourself where you want to be in your profession in one, five and 10 years. Write down your strong points and your employment preferences.

- What are my strengths?
- What do I enjoy doing?
- Do I prefer to work in an office, on road, outdoors?
- Am I willing to commute?
- Do I like business travel?
- Does my resume showcase my successes?

If you're new to an area or re-entering the workforce, a staffing firm or career counselor can be a valuable resource in assessing your skills and making employment recommendations.

Whether it is full-time position, part-time hours, seasonal project work or having time off in the summer, a staffing firm can be a vital resource in helping you evaluate employers that will be compatible with your values, as well as your skills.

Besides identifying your skills and interests, is your present job the right fit based on your core values? Perhaps having more time to spend with your family is important, so working closer to home is a priority. Or is making a difference in peoples' lives important? If your job conflicts with your values, it may not be right for you.

Do you like being in front of the camera or behind it? Are you more suited to be the project manager or a member of the team? Are you the analytical or creative type? Do you thrive on pressure and meeting constant deadlines or prefer a less demanding job? Do you thrive on public speaking or do you feel uncomfortable in the limelight?

Changing jobs does not have to be a traumatic experience. In today's workplace, it is a very common occurrence. Be sure to carefully weigh all the pros and cons. That way, you'll be in the best position to make the right career move because you want to...not because you have to.