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“Changing Your Profession”—a big change to make.

One of the many hard decisions we make in life is changing our career. This decision-making requires a lot of time to think of since there will be some matters to consider. It also requires creating a plan where you can somehow foresee what and who will you be in the future after taking the leap to change your line of work. Changing your profession might enable you to acquire more knowledge and professional experience that is a major fulfillment in your life.

Why do you want to change career? What factors do you consider for you to have a transition? For you to successfully change career, you have to consider your financial stability, required skills and knowledge or the location where you plan to work at.

CHOOSING A DIFFERENT PATH...

- 1. Recognize the Factors You Consider in Changing Line of Work.** It can be that you are not challenged in your current profession. Are you looking for new tasks and a position that will fulfill your calling? Do you feel unsatisfied with the work you have now?
 - ✓ Organize these thoughts by writing down the essential factors you look for in a new job.
 - ✓ Have unlimited set of career of options but make sure to narrow them down in the end.

- 2. List down Your Strengths.** For you to be able to know if you are suitable for the job you would want to shift in, you must be aware of your personal and professional capabilities.
 - ✓ Know what and where you're good at.
 - ✓ Write down your skills and abilities.
 - ✓ List the things that challenge and excite you.

There will also be available online career assessment tests you can take to fully discern things you have not yet discovered about yourself.

- 3. List down Your Useful Skills.** While you have to list the skills and abilities you have, you also have to consider the skills you made us in your previous job which you can also utilize in the new job you want.
- 4. Do Your Research to Utilize Skills.** You have made the lists of your skills and passion, what's next? Now is the time to do your research on how you can convert them into a new career. For example, you are good at communication and persuasion; you can use those skills to become a Public Relations Officer or an Advertising Associate.

FACTORS TO CONSIDER IN A CAREER CHANGE...

- 1. Financial Situation.** It understandable to have a decrease in salary if you decide to change your career. Shifting to a new one is like having a fresh start, beginning again. Before taking a leap in your career, consider your financial stability:
 - ✓ Be prepared to start with a minimum salary range.
 - ✓ If you are making enough money in your current career, think about it harder.
 - ✓ But if you really would want to change your line of work, you can make ways on how to make up for the deficit; invest in small businesses or take a part time job.
- 2. Update Your Education and Skills.** You might have to update your skills and knowledge if the new career you want is far different from your previous job. For instance, education in Business Administration can't be used in Medical Profession; Knowledge in Computer Engineering isn't appropriate in Biological Sciences.

You can update your knowledge by taking small courses offered online or in universities. You might not want to immediately enroll for a new degree if you are unsure if you would really love and enjoy that new career. Assess yourself and the situation first.

- 3. Make Money while Studying.** If you plan to update your education, you can enroll in weekend or evening classes to maximize your time. While you work in daytime or weekdays, you can still have the time to study to acquire more knowledge and skills. Make sure to manage your time well.

BUILDING A NEW NETWORK, IN A NEW FIELD...

1. Reach Out and Make Connections. Having a new career track is also having new sets of employees, colleagues or peers. Look for people who can help you enter the industry you want. Make sure to reach out to the new people who are in the career path you desire and make connections. They might assist you in the future; look for opportunities or connect you with other people in the industry.

- ✓ Expand your connections by meeting and talking to them personally.
- ✓ You can also interact with them by connecting or following them on their Social Media profiles.

2. Have a Nose for Information. You can conduct conversational interviews with the people who work in the field you desire. Making it casual gives you the chance to be more honest and straightforward with them. They can serve as your mentors before really entering a new career path.

Acquire as many as information as you can from people who are experiences in the field you plan to take. You can ask for the following information:

- ✓ The advantages and disadvantages of their job—professionally and personally
- ✓ Their typical day in the workplace
- ✓ Major trends to know about the industry
- ✓ Their humble beginnings and successes
- ✓ Entry level positions where you can be suitable
- ✓ Required trainings, education or seminars to enter the field
- ✓ Recommendations and advice to consider upon entering a field

3. Increase Your Value. Volunteering with various tasks in your new field might be a huge help in increasing your value and as well as your experience. While you are in your current job, you might try to do some volunteer works, in line with your new field, to somehow experience being in it.

You can assess yourself first, if you would really enjoy being in the new field you desire.

GETTING READY FOR A SHIFT...

- 1. Consider Your Resume as Your Ticket.** Remember that in any field of work, your *Curriculum Vita or resume* is your ticket towards being hired, aside from your skills and knowledge. Your CV should always be updated upon every employment or new education you have.

These are some of what you should highlight in your CV:

- ✓ Your transferable skills: skills you have used in your previous employment that can be useful in your new field.
 - ✓ Your education, especially the new knowledge you have acquired in preparing to shift career.
 - ✓ Necessary experience—training, seminars and volunteer work related with your new field.
- 2. Search for Job Vacancies.** After accomplishing your updated resume, you can now apply and search for as many as vacant position as you can. Just make sure it falls under your chosen field. Though you can apply to those where you don't actually qualify, for employers might see valuable skills and strengths you have.
 - 3. Be Prepared for Interviews.** Be the most prepared interviewee as you can be. Refresh your mind on how to properly answer job interview questions. Recall how you were interviewed on your current job. There might be similar questions to be raised. Be prepared enough to create a good impression to interviewers and employers.
 - ✓ Research about the company—mission, vision, establishment, core values or how it started. Detailed research about a company will make you look knowledgeable about the company.
 - ✓ Read the job description carefully, know the position you are trying to win.
 - ✓ During the interview, relate your past knowledge and experiences. This way, you can showcase what you have learned before and that you can apply it in your new field.

A change in career is a huge decision to make. It is one of the many milestones in your life that you have to surpass if you don't feel fulfilled in the current career you have. But looking in the bigger picture, it can make your life's quality more significant and fulfilling. Go for that desire of yours and be successful!

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