



Interview Yourself to Invent Your Future Career

Finding your passion, discovering your strengths, and most of all MAKING IT HAPPEN is not as easy as it sounds.

Keith Ferrazzi developed this series of questions to help friends and clients create a future vision for their career. For each question, you don't need sentences – just make a list.

Tip: Find a quiet place and give yourself an hour to work through the lists.

Once you're finished, search for reoccurring themes and intersections. Circle things that stand out to you. Is a future vision emerging? Create a long-term goal – in the next lesson, you'll be ripping it apart with trusted friends and colleagues, so don't worry about whether it's "right." It's just a step in the process.

1. What are your dream jobs? List every profession you've ever dreamed or thought of having.

You wanted to be a fireman? Write it down! Pharmacist? Great! Put it on the list. The idea here is to brainstorm – don't limit yourself by what you feel is "possible." You will start to see patterns among the jobs you list here and similar traits between them. That's the real value, so the more inputs you have here the better.

2. What are you good at? List your strengths.

This step should be easy, since if you're working through Course III and just spent time evaluating your strengths. But with this list, think more expansively than you might have so far – we're brainstorming, so list *everything*. Are you good at cooking? Explaining things to people? Are you great at keeping your house organized? Are you a great manager?

3. What are you not so good at? List your weaknesses.

We all have weaknesses, or things that are NOT our strengths. This exercise will help prepare you to choose a soft skill gap to work on in Course III Lesson 5. Be honest here – you will find that often these align with unhappiness. Think about times when you're unhappy: do you hate doing paperwork? Maybe it's because you're not very good at administrative tasks. Are you uncomfortable in social situations? Maybe "being social" isn't a strength of yours. BE HONEST in this exercise. And ask your family, friends and colleagues for their insights.

4. What makes you happy? List every little thing that's ever made you happy in your life.

Happiness is one of the most important things in life. Who doesn't want to live a happy life? If you want to find your passion – something that will allow you to be great – then it must also make you happy. Think about every little thing that you've ever done that makes you happy - spending time with your kids, tearing apart a computer and putting it back together, running miles and miles until you can't run anymore. Your list of "happy things" will help you figure out first what it is you DON'T want to do; then, you work with this list to identify a career that incorporates one or more of these things in a big way.

5. What companies and/or people you want to work for? List them!

Have you always wanted to work for a particular company? Or how about that woman you've read about in the WSJ and respect so much. Make a list of all these companies and people. This will help guide your search after you've made all your other lists. This is one of the first steps in crafting your Relationship Action Plan. Don't forget to do this one – it will guide you into action.

Get started and make your lists!