

Ideal Career by 5 Elements

People/ Culture & Environment	Work Itself	Boss/Leader	Location/Commute/Schedule	Pay & Benefits
*Describe the type of people you would LOVE to work with and the culture and environment that allows you to do your best work.	*Describe what you will be doing including the type of work, in what industry and what company. How will you spend your days doing work you LOVE that is challenging, exciting, and leverages your strengths?	*Most people don't leave jobs, they leave bosses. Describe the type of leader that you would LOVE to work with. Be specific and clear, perhaps think about the best boss you ever had.	* Describe the location of your work – how far from your home? Will you be working from home partially? How much? What is your schedule like? How many hours? Do you want to travel?	*Describe your ideal pay including bonuses, benefits and time off. Prioritize what is most important to you. Be sure to use actual numbers and figures where possible.

Instructions:

Think about your ideal career using these 5 elements as a guide. Enter a description in each of the boxes. Try to be as specific and as clear as possible. Use metrics and numbers where possible (i.e. \$200,000 in base salary or located within a 15 mile radius of my home). The goal here is to write down what you really, really want. This is not about what you 'could' do given your past skills and experience or what you 'should' do. It's about the *ideal*. The clearer you can get on what it is you really want, the easier it will be to recognize it when it appears and it will also allow you to spend time and energy efficiently pursuing opportunities that fit the criteria. Next, rank in order which element is most important to you: i.e. Work = #1, Location = #2 etc. This will be important to get clear on what you value the most. In some cases you may be assessing opportunities that could involve making some tradeoffs, so knowing your priorities is key. Finally, take a step back and ask yourself, 1) does this sound like an amazing opportunity that I would LOVE to do and would take in a heartbeat? And then 2) what do I need to do to make this ideal career become a reality?



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