

# LEVERAGE YOUR STRENGTHS FOR CAREER SUCCESS ON YOUR TERMS

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## A Note from the Author

Thank you for downloading this Guide. I'm confident that it will help you in your search for a more fulfilling career.

Within these pages, you will be asked to expand your thinking, and start looking at your strengths in ways you may not be used to doing. By completing this Guide, you'll put yourself in the unique position of someone who's truly prepared to go after whatever you want in your career.

I invite you to visit my website [CreativeVisionCoaching.com](https://CreativeVisionCoaching.com) to learn more about how I can help you achieve your career goals, or to [schedule your complimentary Career Coaching Consultation](#).

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**Please note:** If you're seeking to strengthen your Leadership Skills, this Guide may be of limited application. If so, please visit the [Leadership Coaching](#) page of my website, and take my Leadership Performance Appraisal. Your results will serve as an important first step to strengthening your Leadership Skills.

# Leverage Your Strengths for Career Success on Your Terms

## 1. Claim your strengths.

All through childhood, and well into our adult lives, we're told not to boast. We're encouraged to be modest and not to "blow your own horn."

But it's the healthy self-boasting, this inward pride and knowledge of what makes us truly talented in unique ways, that's so important when it comes to claiming your strengths.

So, let's begin by pondering these questions:

- What am I really great at doing?
- What am I most proud of about me?
- What are my most unique and outstanding talents?
- What do others find difficult that comes easily to me?

Your answers to these questions may be comprised of skills such as the ability to write really well, talents like being a decisive leader, or personal attributes such as being able to put others at ease.

Now, write down all of the things that are truly great about you. Be generous with yourself, and keep in mind that this is designed to be a fun, empowering and challenging exercise. Your responses can include strengths that show up in either your work or non-work life.

If you want to go one step further, ask your colleagues what they see as your strengths. You may be surprised by the responses you get.

For example, one of my clients wondered if it would be a bad idea to show more of her fun side at work. When she asked, she discovered that her colleagues not only enjoyed her playfulness, but also found it a welcome counterbalance to the serious nature of their work.

## 2. Be 100% clear which strengths you want to use in your future work.

It's possible that you won't want to rely on the same strengths in the future as you do now.

For example, another client, a great computer software developer, found over time that he disliked sitting in front of the computer all day. (Does that sound familiar to you?) However, he is also very drawn to animals and helping them, and he loves science and biology. After careful consideration, he decided to shift course and apply to veterinary school. Once you find your passion, you too can make this kind of transformational change.

Of course, a major career change is not always required to significantly improve your career fulfillment. Sometimes a simple shift to a workplace with the right fit culture is the key to expression of your most prized talents.

Do you feel confident about which strengths you're most passionate about using in the future? Be sure your top ranked strengths are the ones that are most valued by YOU.

## 3. Which of your strengths truly excite you and come with little or no downside?

Think realistically about all of the components of the career you may be considering. Besides affording you the opportunity to do something you are excited about, does it also require you to do some things you don't want to do?

For example, a client who has a good eye for design and fashion considered opening her own boutique. In the end, however, she nixed the idea because she had no interest in bookkeeping, taking inventory or working weekends.

## 4. Think out of the box.

Take a look at careers you've never before considered that require expertise with your top strengths.

Interview individuals in these careers (most people love to talk about themselves.) Find out about what they do day-to-day and the upside and downside of their work. You may well discover an option worth considering.

## 5. Do your homework.

Find out all you can about the new career you're considering. Research it online, read about it, and talk to people in the field. When doing this kind of real world investigation dig deep, and when you think you're done digging, dig some more.

For example, a client who enjoys growing plants and constructing gardens was unfulfilled as a landscape architect. Though adept with computerized blueprints, his true passion was building and growing gardens. After carefully researching his options, he decided his path to career fulfillment was to open his own garden construction and planting business.

## 6. Be realistic with yourself and ask the practical questions.

- Does this career require more years of schooling than you're prepared to do?
- Will you have to take a pay cut?
- Does the industry you're drawn to require a move to a new city?

Your clear-eyed answers to these questions upfront will save you much frustration down the line.

## 7. Be certain your ideal career is truly what you want.

This is where you make sure both your heart and your head are committed to your plan. You should feel truly excited about what's next, and fully prepared to do the work required to make your dream career a reality.

This is also a good time to be honest with yourself and acknowledge any internal blocks (such as low self-confidence) that may hold you back from moving in a direction that truly excites you. It will be important to get the support you need, in order to overcome any internal or external blocks that might impede your forward progress.

## 8. Go public with your new career plan.

Start telling people what you want to do, and see how it feels.

- Do the words roll off your tongue and sound authentic?
- Do negative responses (and there will always be naysayers) make you feel more determined?
- Do your words make you feel even more excited about what you have to offer?
- Do your most prized talents jump out as you speak?

If you answered yes to these questions, you're headed in the right direction!

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Of course, this brief Guide is just the tip of the proverbial iceberg. But these questions can help focus your thinking as you explore your options and opportunities.

To learn more about how I help clients determine their dream careers and coach them on achieving their goals, I invite you to visit [www.CreativeVisionCoaching.com](http://www.CreativeVisionCoaching.com) to request your complimentary Coaching Consultation.