

Chapter 2: Determine Your "What"

Your purpose and passion.

"Kites rise highest against the wind, not with it."

Winston Churchill

Chapter 1 helps to discover the why and what of your passion. Chapter 2 takes that a bit deeper to discover your purpose.



What this chapter covers:

- How passion and purpose are interdependent and provide guidance and direction

- How to follow your purpose into a career choice
- How to match values with passion with purpose in creating a career pathway.
- Knowing why and what lights you up makes working enjoyable, adding high positive energy to your work and life.
- Being in a job position to contribute **with** (not for) **compensation**.

Have you ever dreamed of a day when someone asks you, "When do you plan to retire?" Some of you smiled when you read this question, and some of you felt eager for that day. What if I were to tell you that you could not only smile at that question but laugh at it too? Why laugh? Because if you are doing what you love to do and loving what you do — there is no need to leave it through retirement.

Many people look at me funny when I answer this retirement plan question with "Retire from what? I am not working! That is a true statement when you are legitimately in a career position where you are enjoying yourself. Why would anyone want to leave such a position where they are fulfilling their purpose and living out their passions? How would you also like to fulfill your purpose and live out your passions? Stay tuned.

There is a process in making it possible for you to be in a career position where you can get to enjoy yourself as you contribute with compensation. You have already completed the first step in the process, which is understanding why and what it is that lights you up inside. Now, we take that a step further by teaching and training you how to align your career path with your values and passions.

YOUR PURPOSE is only sometimes obvious. Many people ask the question, "Why am I here?" This question gets asked at times of moments when it does not look like things are going in the right direction. When it feels hopeless, you won't be able to truly enjoy life.

Passion is all about emotion, and purpose is the focus of passion. This means that now you know what and why you are passionate about certain things, the next step is to focus on that and create a purpose. For example, if someone really enjoys cooking, they might consider their purpose to be making people happy by cooking great meals. Another example might be if someone really lights up inside when they can tell what makes something work electrically; they may have a purpose that includes making things useful for people to have better lives.

Whatever your passion, you can create a purpose.

Marcel Schwantes, from INC.com, put it succinctly, your passion and purpose are something you can't help yourself with; you must do it, and "if you weren't getting paid, you would do it anyway — the purpose is "passionate pursuit. ¹

You see mission, vision, purpose, and core values statements on the websites of companies and organizations all the time. Do you know that those are the means for their compass, giving them direction and guiding them to their "north star?" Without

knowing your north star, you can be all over the place, just drifting. Is that what's happening to you now? Are you just drifting in life?

If you are among the millions of people just drifting in life, and you want to have more direction, then you are in the right place as you read this. If you are confident in your purpose, you can reinforce it to maintain your course and direction. For those not sure, you are about to stop drifting and have a direction that gets you to your north star.

The best way to see your purpose from knowing your passion is to take a moment and think. Think about someone watching your life, like in a movie, and they are waiting to see how you are fulfilling what lights you up. How do you see yourself fulfilling what lights you up? Now put that in a way that shows focus. What most people do is create a vision and mission statement. The vision statement paints a picture of what it looks like to fulfill your passion, and the mission statement is what you do to fulfill it, the actions taken fulfilling your vision.

J.D. Roth cautions us to make sure we are true to our passions when creating our purpose in life. For example, some people state their mission is to be debt-free and financially independent. That is their sole purpose in life. But as was pointed out, that is not being true to their true selves and end up being back into debt. ²Be true to your true self as you create your purpose, aligning it with your passion.

You want to be sure and see what your vision and mission are in life because this affects your time spent with your employer, family, friends, and other activities, along with the time you are away from your employer. Your happiness, enjoyment, and fulfillment are only partially done by contributing with compensation to your employer. And the level of happiness, fulfillment, and joy you have all the time affects the level of your satisfaction with life. So, be honest as you create your own vision and mission statement.

>>> (Optional) You can go to the online course workbook. and complete the exercise: Personal Vision and Mission Statement. [This is part of online course Module 2, Your Personal Vision and Mission Statement Exercise](#)

Now that you focus on your passion and describe your purpose in a vision and mission statement, you have a compass to guide you to your career north star. It is time for you to match this with a career field.

¹<https://www.inc.com/marcel-schwantes/five-simple-exercises-to-find-your-life-purpose.html>

²<https://www.getrichslowly.org/finding-purpose/>

CAREER ALIGNMENT

There are many different online software tools to explore what careers fit best with your passion and purpose.

>(Optional) You can go to the online course workbook. and take the O'Net. [This is part of the Module 1 Career Assessment Exercise](#)

O'NET is one of the best and fastest ways to see what career fields match the best for you, your true YOU.

<https://www.onetonline.org/>

The results of this career assessment tool are more direction and guidance for helping you find a career position you enjoy that fulfills your passion and purpose. Your enjoyment leads to a high level of energy and a high level of positivity. That means when challenges arise with your employer; positivity overrides the situation and circumstances. Positivity drives attitude; as was previously said, attitude drives the altitude by which you reach your employer. Facing challenges with positivity and direction allows for tense periods to pass and for clear and

creative thinking to occur. Clear and creative thinking (ethically) is what helps ease the situation and offers feasible (and ethical) solutions. In this way, challenging situations are resolved, and all is well.

There are many life-challenging situations and circumstances too. Having a clear direction along your career pathway is needed. The list of careers best suited to the real YOU may seem overwhelming. It is suggested that you write down the top 5 career fields you discover and start researching them. Here is what you are needing to know as you research each of these career fields:

1. What does it look like to be contributing with compensation in this particular career position? What are the daily duties and responsibilities? Will I enjoy accomplishing the tasks associated with the daily duties and have no problem with fulfilling my responsibilities?
2. What training, experience, or education is needed for this career position? Do I need to gain more training, experience, or education to be successful in this career field?
3. What are some of the employers who hire for this career position?
4. Who are some people I can reach out to and discuss career directions and options (possibly alumni from your institution, family members, or friends of family members)
5. What are the teams like at these employers? What skills or expertise do these teams have that I have too or may be lacking?

These are the questions that need to be answered as you go through the list of O'Net recommended career fields. After researching these career fields, you are ready for the next step in the process.

Choosing a career that fits with your passion and purpose is a challenge given that we are in a new era in the evolution of the workforce. Look below at some of the careers being affected by the advent of mixing humans and AI in the workforce. Many jobs will eventually be done almost entirely by AI. Humans are projected to be replaced in below:

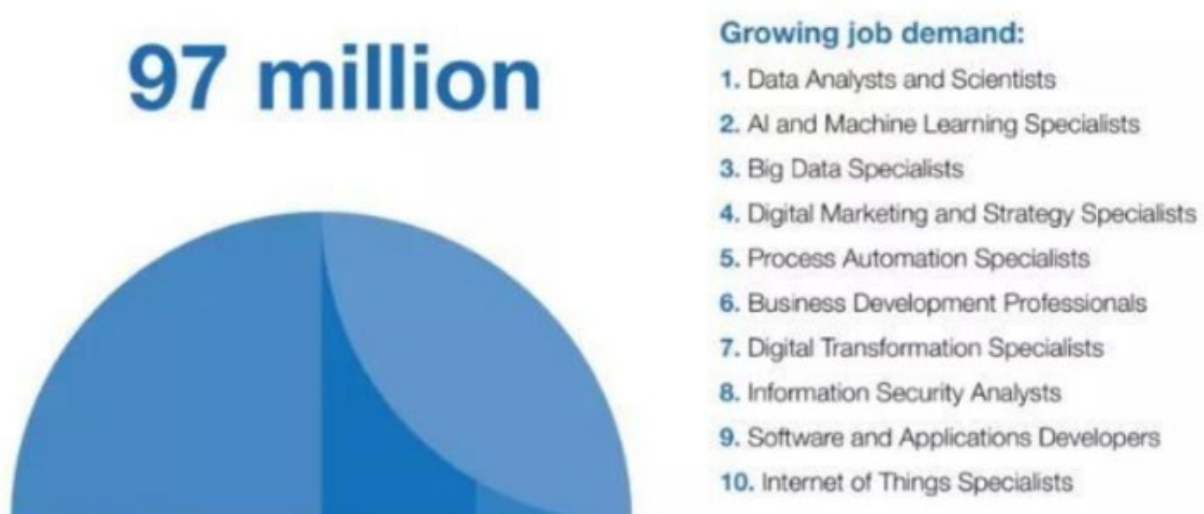
Occupation	Number of Workers
Transportation	3,628,000
Retail salespersons	3,286,000
First line supervisors	3,132,000
Cashiers	3,109,000
Secretaries	3,082,000
Managers, all other	2,898,000
Sales representatives	2,865,000
Registered nurses	2,843,000
Elementary school teachers	2,813,000
Janitors / cleaners	2,186,000
Waiters and waitresses	2,067,000
Cooks	1,951,000
Nursing, psychiatric, and	1,928,000
Customer service	1,896,000
Laborers and freight	1,700,000
Accountants and auditors	1,646,000
First line supervisors	1,507,000
Chief executives	1,505,000
Stock clerks and order fillers	1,456,000
Maids and housekeeping	1,407,000
Postsecondary teachers	1,300,000

Bookkeeping	1,297,000
Receptionists	1,281,000
Construction laborers	1,267,000
Child care workers	1,247,000
Carpenters	1,242,000
Secondary school teachers	1,221,000
Grounds maintenance	1,195,000
Financial managers	1,141,000
Non retail managers	1,131,000

BY 2025, 45% of the working population will be “unemployed through no fault of their own.”

This is a partial list. To see the whole list, watch “Humans Need Not Apply” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Pq-S557XQU>

Take heart, though job losses to AI, as previously discussed, are projected to be 85 million. It is worth repeating here that it is projected that 97 million will be gained, a net gain of 12 million. Those additional opportunities will enhance or challenge different skills. Will you be ready? Here is one projection, provided by the World Economic Forum, exploring some of these changes:



The key is to find which of these careers in demand best match who YOU ARE and get busy preparing for them.

Chapter Summary

- Your purpose is the action by which your passion is fulfilled.
- There is a way to align your passion and purpose to a career field best suited to your true self.
- Researching the career fields ensures you are placed in a career position you enjoy and thrive.

TL;DR AI ChatBot/ChatGPT Question:

The Question:

Q: How does one find purpose and passion in their career pursuits?

The AI Response:

1. **Identify Your Strengths and Interests:** Take some time to reflect on what you're good at and what interests you. Think about what comes naturally to you, the topics you find yourself drawn to, and the activities that you're passionate about.
2. **Consider Your Values:** Think about what matters to you and what kind of lifestyle you want to lead. This can help you identify a career that aligns with your values.
3. **Research Different Fields:** Once you have identified your strengths and interests, do some research on different career paths. Research job descriptions, educational requirements, potential salaries, and any other factors that are important to you.
4. **Take Action:** Once you have identified a career path that aligns with your interests, values, and goals, take action to make it happen. This could mean applying for jobs, signing up for classes, or joining professional organizations.
5. **Refine Your Goals:** As you gain hands-on experience in your chosen field, you may find that your goals and interests evolve. Be open to exploring different opportunities and adjusting your plans as needed.

Author's Comment on AI Response:

A reasonable summary of the flow to find your purpose and passion. Bottom line, you need to do your homework in exploring areas of interest. You then need to EXECUTE. Nothing gets done unless you act on your findings, actively set goals, and pursue opportunities. Establishing your personal brand starts with knowing what you want and then sharing with the world your why.



