

Preface

“Do you know what you want to be when you grow up?” is a common question most of us hear early in life. The answer to this question comes from deep within us. Our passions are developing over time, and the way we discover what they are is to observe ourselves and see what the moments are when we “light up” and become “more alive and engaged.”

Our deeply rooted “why” needs to be discovered along the journey of life. Though the paths might change, the root of our direction is based on following the things we care about. Understanding this allows us to follow the direction of our “life’s compass.” So often we hear people say, “I am not sure what I want to be when I grow up. What that really means is that we need to take a breath, be present, and be observant when the moments come when we are happy, satisfied, and fulfilled with whatever is taking place at that time. As you are reading this, can you remember when you felt happy, satisfied, and fulfilled in life? Was that just a minute ago, a year ago, or never?

This textbook is meant to help you discover your “life’s compass,” and then use this compass to design a pathway that makes perfect sense for YOU. The real YOU. This is who you are deep down. This is your TRUE NATURE, not someone you had to become due to situations and circumstances. Rest assured, if your pathway is one that someone else created for you, there is a way to get on track and sync it with your own. This textbook will help you do that.

“Where there is a will, there is a way.” No matter where you find yourself in your life today, there is a way to get on track with the perfect pathway that makes sense for your today and tomorrow. The resources here provide you with tools to help you point your personal compass in the right direction and lead you to find your “North Star.”



Your “North Star” is the type of career you may want to have that best aligns with your core self. It’s about YOUR personal growth and ultimate fulfillment - the things that make you happy and that you can commit your energies to with vigor. This is a career that matches your dreams, goals, desires, abilities, passions, and personality.

When you are working a job that allows YOU TO SHINE with all that you are, you are no longer working, you are contributing with the added benefit of compensation. When you are no longer working but instead contributing with compensation, you are loving what you do and doing what you love. When that happens, YOU LOVE MONDAY MORNINGS, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays...!

Too many people go through their life stuck in a job or position they hate. By taking advantage of the resources and opportunities within this textbook, doing the exercises, and following through, you will not be one of those “stuck” people. The exercises are designed to help you:

- Discover your life’s compass.
- See your North Star
- Navigate your life’s journey with your North Star to guide you.
- Find and successfully pursue opportunities.
- Obtain and maintain a career that is best suited for you.
- Level up in your chosen career field
- Share your success with those around you.

Ready to live the pathway and create the perfect career trajectory best suited for you?

Let’s begin.

Introduction to the Book

The chapters in this textbook are designed to assist you with taking the online course or may be done independently. The course materials contain information that will assist you with knowing your core self. Using that discovery of that core self, you will then understand your “why” — this is the reason for taking the next action steps and following through with what it takes to have the career position best matching all that you are and all that you bring to an employer. After knowing your “Why,” the textbook takes you on a pre-career learning journey that prepares you to be a candidate for the career position of your choice.

After you are a successful candidate for a career position and get selected to join your employer in that role, this book takes you on a leveling-up journey sharing tools to enhance your readiness and continuous improvement. It is one thing to get and keep a job, it is quite another to position yourself for leveling up and making a difference in your career field. This is where learning, growing, and developing in your career field makes contributing with compensation even more fun!

Finally, this book takes you on a “lifelong learning” journey in that there is always news to share regarding the positioning for leveling up in your personal and professional lives. In essence, the authors and their organization, Future Forward Academy, have the finger on the pulse. When the pulse changes, you will be aware of what is happening and ready to adapt to the changes along the path of your life’s career trajectory.

How to use this book

Use this book as an instructional guidebook. Each chapter will share information that can be applied directly to your life and circumstances. As you absorb this information through various exercises, you will make discoveries (some perhaps for the first time) that will provide insights and directions helpful when designing your career pathway to success. This book complements the online training modules that can be used simultaneously.

Who can benefit from using this book?

Anybody seeking joy and purpose as they pursue their personal and professional journey will gain from this book. People who have been on the pathway of their lives not feeling happy, satisfied, or fulfilled, will also benefit from this book. Newly graduated high school or GED people starting on the pathway of life will want to learn and do the lessons in this book to avoid being one of those people not happy, satisfied, or fulfilled in their lives, looking back after 20, 30, 40 or more years and asking what happened. Or—someone caught in this shift taking place in the job market with the machines mixing with humans in the workforce will also benefit.

Job landscape

By 2025, new jobs will emerge and others will be displaced by a shift in the division of labour between humans and machines, affecting:



Source: Future of Jobs Report 2020, World Economic Forum.

TL;DR - AI ChatBot/ChatGPT Questions with AI-generated responses:

The Question:

Q: When will 25% unemployment due to AI occur?

The AI Response:

It is impossible to accurately predict when 25% unemployment due to AI might occur since AI is a rapidly evolving technology. It is possible that this could happen in the future, but it is difficult to estimate a timeline.

Q: Why is AI evolving?

AI is evolving because of the increasing availability of data and computing power. AI technology is continually being improved through machine learning algorithms and data

mining techniques, which allow it to better process and analyze data. AI is also becoming more powerful due to advancements in hardware and software technologies.

Q: What jobs will AI replace?

AI will likely replace jobs that are repetitive and involve simple tasks such as data entry, customer service, and certain manufacturing jobs. AI will also be used in more complex roles, such as medical diagnosis and legal research. AI is also likely to replace some jobs that require more advanced skills such as financial analysis and software engineering.

Q: Will AI ever replace educators teaching in K-12 or Higher Education?

No, AI is not likely to replace educators teaching in K-12 or higher education. AI technology can be used to assist teachers in providing personalized learning experiences and can help automate administrative tasks, but AI is not capable of replacing the unique skills and human connection that an educator provides.

This book gives you the tools, all in one place, that you need to begin your pathway or pivot your direction, depending on your situation and circumstance, leading to your success. By the end of this book, you will have everything it takes to get, keep, and level up in the career job position that best matches the true YOU.

Summary of Contents

Chapter 1: Determine Your “Why”

Begin with the End in Mind (Second Habit from “Seven Habits of Highly Effective People” by Stephen Covey) & Simon Sinek’s Golden Circle.

Chapter 2: Determine Your “What”

Your purpose and passion and SMART goal setting.

Chapter 3: Distinguish Yourself-Personal Branding

What makes you special?

Chapter 4: Your LinkedIn Profile

Your link to future career growth and success.

Chapter 5: Other Social Media

I am who the web thinks I am.

Chapter 6: Why You Need Multiple [Paid] Internships

Experience gets you hired - discover what you like and don’t like.

Chapter 7: Determine the WHERE to Seek Opportunities

Researching and finding organizations/companies/industries that fit YOU.

Chapter 8: Seeking, Finding, Applying

Where do I go?

Chapter 9: Resume Template

Customization is king and queen.

Chapter 10: The Cover Letter

Do I need one?

Chapter 11: Seize the Interview and Optimize It

Putting your best, confident, foot forward.

Chapter 12: Evaluating and Accepting the Job Offer

Making choices and negotiating success.

Chapter 13: Success [So-called Soft] Skills

Keys to lifetime career growth and success.

Chapter 14: Life and Career Success

"Life is a marathon, not a sprint".

Chapter 15: Adulting 101

Making a life, not just a living.

Chapter 16: Ethical Considerations & Lifetime Success

You are who you say and what you do; attitude = altitude.

Chapter 17: Partnering with Artificial Intelligence (AI): Career Impact

Who Moved My Career?

