



TIME ON YOUR HANDS? MAKE THE MOST OF IT.

Do you find yourself with time on your hands right now? Maybe you unexpectedly lost your job or have been furloughed or you just graduated from college and the job market is not as robust as you had hoped.

If this is where you are, here is my top 10 list on how to spend this down-time:

1. Breathe. You will get through this down time. You will survive and may even thrive.
2. Focus on becoming the healthiest version of you. This self-care will prepare you for the opportunities that will come your way in the future.
3. If you haven't done one of these before, take one or both of these assessments to better understand your strengths and how they could be leveraged in your work: [Clifton Strengths](#) or [Standout](#).
4. Get crisp in talking about what you're good at and create your elevator speech.
 - a. If you don't know what this is, check out this [article from Indeed](#).
 - b. Once you've got it written down, practice it until you can say it without reading it.
 - c. Now practice it with the right level of passion and emotion. You want to make a positive impression.
 - d. Get feedback on it from those that know you. Does it really say who you are and how you are looking to make an impact on the world around you?
5. Refine what you're looking for from a company and a job. What are your biggest priorities?
 - a. Pay or Benefits
 - b. Career paths
 - c. Great boss
 - d. Company mission and purpose
 - e. Something else...
6. Invest (time and maybe \$) in learning something new. This learning could be in your targeted field or a new hobby. Just focus on learning.
7. Consider volunteering your time with a community organization, a non-profit, or a social or political organization. Figure out how and where you could use your skills for the good of others.

8. Consider if one of your hobbies could translate into some income/business. Do you love to take pictures or write or edit videos? Do you love caring for others' pets? Do you love planning events (yes...I get that most are virtual now but there aren't probably a lot of experts yet)?
 - a. Get creative here.
 - b. Check out marketplaces like [fiverr](#) or [Upwork](#).
9. Consider if your skills or education could be transferable to an industry or a role you hadn't considered. Google your primary skill areas and job and see what comes up.
10. Network with anyone and everyone...old school friends, with neighbors, with groups on Facebook or LinkedIn, with individuals you socialize with, with extended family members.
 - a. Great book to consider: [The 20-Minute Networking Meeting - Executive Edition: Learn to Network. Get a Job.](#)
 - b. Focus on renewing or building relationships...not just on what you can get from someone.