

What I value in a potential career:**

1. Uses my God-given talents and related to my core characteristics
2. Intellectually stimulating: I will be continually learning things that are both fulfilling (help me see the world more clearly) and relevant (things that can be applied to better others' worlds).
3. Has an impact on people's lives—their happiness, relationships, and way of being. Heavy emphasis on “minds & hearts” over physical/temporal things.
4. Doesn't have to yield a lot of money, but enough to support a family, and some extra for projects/causes.
5. Freedom: Rigid enough to give me a pattern/structure to work within, but flexible enough to let me mold things in a direction that I want when I get ideas. Ideally, can allow me to be fully independent once I know what I want to do and have an idea of the steps to take to get there.

Thoughts as to my God-given Gifts/Talents:

1. Can sort through information and pick out the most important/relevant
2. Organizer of information
3. Articulate... in certain circumstances (where I am prepared, supported, faithful)
4. Persuasive writer
5. Tactful listener/conversationalist
6. (In a cause I really believe in) Confident/Inspirational Leader
7. I can see an opportunity and make something out of it (E.g. publishing with Dr. Paulsen, being a researcher for Lloyd Newell)
8. Network of competent friends and associates

Thoughts as to my Core Characteristics:

1. Faith-filled disciple and witness of Truth
2. Learner
3. Teacher
4. Disseminator of Useful Information
5. Counselor
6. Technologist
7. Historical Activist
8. Enthusiastic
9. Once I learn something, I leave a trail for others to benefit from what I've learned
10. Efficiency: I naturally try to refine tasks to the most effective heuristic

Things I can imagine myself doing for the rest of my life:

1. Reading a lot, recording and organizing what I learn, and writing about it: books, essays.
2. Flying around the country giving presentations on things I have learned
3. Creating databases of impactful information (e.g., gospel topics, marriage relationships, politics)
4. Counseling. Helping people improve their life—especially their relationships with others

Interests:

Eternal Truths (LDS Doctrine), Social Psychology, Psychology, History, Political Issues Affecting Religion, Relationships, Self-Improvement Literature, Computer Technologies, Public Speaking

DISinterests:

Statistics—at least all the monotonous tasks involved in quantitative studies, computer programming. Basically anything that is monotonous (that is not also intellectually stimulating as defined above) or is done *only* for money (Anything that is “just a job”—not intimately related to being “an end in itself”).

****Note:** I do not shy away from more training/education (I love school!), but I would also value--in whatever advanced education/career I pursue--something that does not limit me (e.g., if I get a degree in something research-intensive, it is very easy to become a teacher, but the opposite is rarely true). Ideally, I want to pursue things that allow me to enter a maximal amount of doors.

Comments from others:

1. You have great consumer recommendations (informed on where/how to buy things).
2. You think analytically—like the LSAT. It is kinda annoying sometimes.
3. You write well. Persuasively. In ways that make difficult concepts more clear to others.
4. You're a funny guy. You have a healthy sense of humor and can make people laugh.
5. You're witty. Two words: quote board.
6. You're friendly. You go out of your way to meet people and learn random facts about them, and you make sure people know each other in group settings. You make group situations comfortable for everyone involved.
7. You're outgoing, enthusiastic, and full of life. You're fun to be around. You make others around you smile.
8. You have an optimistic, positive attitude. You help people look on the bright side of things and make them feel better when they're down in the dumps.
9. You have a knack for finding great deals and coupons.
10. You really care about other people, and you show it through your thoughtful gestures.
11. You inspire other people to improve their lives and to be better individuals. You are a great example to everyone around you.
12. You have a strong testimony and faith in the gospel. You don't hesitate to bring up gospel principles in conversation when appropriate.

Specific Job Suggestions from others:

- Counselor, Marriage and family therapist
- College Professor (Religion, Philosophy, Family Sciences)
 - Note: This is actually the one that I've come closest to committing to—especially being a religion professor at BYU. The problems are
 - (1) It is a very narrow, specialized area-- my hiring possibilities only lie within the Church (which already did not work out once—see note in Seminary Teacher)
 - (2) Relatedly, it might limit my sphere of influence/credibility. Think about how a world stage would receive a 'BYU professor' versus other things I could become.
 - (3) It requires a PhD—the danger is that if I pursue a degree related to religion and it doesn't work out, my options could be limited. (Ideally, I'm thinking... if I go this route, I would like to get a PhD in something that is highly valued professionally, but still interesting, broadly applicable, and still relates to religion... suggestions?) IF YOU CAN TALK ME OUT OF THESE MISGIVINGS, THAT WOULD BE GREAT.
- Designing teaching tools with technology (create high quality, interactive and fun software/tools)
- Science writer/Investigative reporter
- Social Psychologist: explain gospel principles by worldly studies
- Promotion/Sales
- Family advocacy
- Essayist/writer
- Seminary Teacher
 - Note: This is by far my most common recommendation—and I agree. So, to all who I gave this to: I applied for the program last year, made it pretty far into it, but was not invited to be a student teacher and so am not eligible to be a seminary teacher for now. They said I could reapply in 30 years—no joke.