

## ARE YOU A CORPORATE DROPOUT?

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**WARNING:** This quiz takes only a few minutes, however if honestly evaluated and reflected upon it may bring about changes that will alter the course of your life!!

1. Do you have little interest in climbing the corporate ladder, playing office politics and/or working "9-5" just to fit in?  
**TRUE or FALSE**
2. Do you feel your skills, vision and ideals have little to do with your corporate day job?  
**TRUE or FALSE**
3. Have you had a recent illness, death of a loved one, personal challenge or an epiphany that has led you to re-evaluate your priorities and values in life?  
**TRUE or FALSE**
4. Have you defined success as money, status and recognition within the corporate setting, yet intrinsically know that you have not achieved your true mission in life?  
**TRUE or FALSE**
5. Would you embrace a life of simplicity for the gift of waking each morning a job that you truly love?  
**TRUE or FALSE**
6. If you could create any job you want (as absurd as it may sound...) would you realize that it doesn't look anything like the one you currently hold in the corporate world?  
**TRUE or FALSE**
7. Do you have an interest or hobby that you spend countless hours engrossed in and daydream about a workday that would allow you to incorporate your passion into a financially viable opportunity?  
**TRUE or FALSE**
8. Do you feel like a square peg in a round hole at your work and have several recurring situations that suggest that you do not fit into the hierarchy of the corporate structure?  
**TRUE or FALSE**
9. Do you fantasize of a workday that does not involve the colorful, yet offensive noose otherwise known as a tie, or the "sheer energy torture apparatus" otherwise known as a pair of pantyhose?  
**TRUE or FALSE**
10. During one of the many interminable meetings concerning the latest company policy, do you escape to a land where creativity, ideas and possibilities flourish?  
**TRUE or FALSE**

**If you answered true to 3-5 questions--**You have the beginning symptoms of becoming a Corporate Dropout, what else do you need to explore?

**If you answered true to 6-8 questions--**You are experiencing a great deal of discomfort, is the path of a Corporate Dropout right for you?

**If you answered true to 8-10 questions--**The path of a Corporate Dropout beckons, will you heed the call?

The reality of Corporate America is one of downsizing, mergers and acquisitions, foreign outsourcing and “at will working conditions”. For some people these situations may breed new avenues of opportunity, yet for many others the unexpected twists and turns of corporate life can deliver a devastating shock. Individuals often find losing their job, pales in significance to the awakening of the harsh reality that they have traded their lives, dreams and goals for a false sense of security...and it was merely an illusion.

If you find that you’re experiencing the symptoms of a Corporate Dropout yet still fear the unknown; take heart in knowing that many others have courageously gone before you and blazed a trail of inspiration to follow.

- ❑ For example, the trial lawyer who gave up his corporate career to pursue his passion of building sandcastles and became financially successful through business sponsorships and classes.
- ❑ The advertising account executive that gave up her corporate life to follow her dreams of teaching children and was recently nominated as Teacher of the Year.
- ❑ The stockbroker who listened to his inner calling and now enriches his student’s lives through his teaching of yoga and holistic health; he is now considered one of the most popular teachers in the area.
- ❑ The woman next in line for a vice-president position at a telecommunications firm, who chucked corporate life for the dream of owning her own consulting firm and sets her own fees and schedule.

There are no guarantees in life, however these Corporate Dropout Pioneers illustrate that when we follow our dreams, values and passions our lives become richer at more than just the pocketbook level. If you find that you have the symptoms of a corporate drop-out and have a burning desire to pursue your dreams but fear still holds you in its clutches, know that your not alone. For some moving out of the corporate structure into a new and possibly unrelated career endeavor will be the answer. Others may need a period of time to obtain further schooling or training in order to make the transition. Still others may bridge the gap by becoming entrepreneurs or consultants.

Whatever your decision, know that there is no one answer or one path, however the choice to ignore your calling is a bitter and regretful one at best.

Robert Frost said it so well...  
Two roads diverged in a wood  
And I took the one less traveled by  
And that has made all the difference

Self-evaluation, strategic planning and goal setting now become the next steps in your journey. Our time on this planet is precious spent, so before another day goes by...ask yourself what do **you** need to do to make your dreams become reality?

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