

Quality of Work

Rosemarie M. Rowley

“The Leap of Faith”

Is Now a Good Time to Change Jobs ?

February 2009

In today's economy, everyone is worried from Wall Street to Main Street. All we are hearing about is gloom and doom, not to mention bailouts and bankruptcies. On a more personal level, many of us are questioning whether this is the right time to pursue a new opportunity, or to stay put and ride out this economic storm. There has been so much speculation and confusion on this subject that I decided to address it in this month's newsletter.

It has recently been confirmed that we are in a recession; but in every recession there have been great opportunities. My firm, Ambassador, Inc., was established in the recession of the early nineties, and is still thriving. Many others have made successful career changes in previous difficult economic times. “Caution,” not trepidation, is the word I would recommend. Today there seems to be no guarantees, not even with your current employer. My recommendation to you is “when opportunity knocks” do explore what is behind the door. Please be clear about what I am saying, exploration is not the same as commitment.

If you explore opportunities, you do not have to commit to leaving your current company. You should only leave your current job when the opportunity is better than what you have now, and only after you have analyzed the risk factors.

In any economic time, it is always wise to minimize your risks to the best of your ability. My executive coaching clients are advised to map out what they do best; what they want to do; and where they want to do it. By doing this, they are well informed about how to recognize the *right* opportunities for them, even before they interview. Never be afraid to “test the waters” and respond to inquiries about new job opportunities. Companies still need to remain competitive and are still hiring talent, even in this economic downturn. As a matter of fact, smart companies are seeing this time as an opportunity to attract top talent who would otherwise not consider leaving their companies. The best time for you to explore other opportunities may be now, when much of your competition is taking cover in this economic storm.



Think About This:

Are you allowing a good opportunity to pass you by?

Rosemarie M. Rowley

As an Executive Coach, Rosemarie advises on career planning for business professionals.

Contact us for a free consultation on how we can help you with your next career move.

View our *new* website at

www.ambassadorconsulting.com

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If you have been contemplating a job change, I recommend you follow the key steps listed below *before* exploring opportunities.

- Know your strengths. They should make up 80% of your job responsibilities. If you don't know your top three, you need to identify them before you interview.
- Write your ideal job description. What job will utilize your strengths, fit you best, and satisfy your needs?
- Select the industry and companies that you wish to target and research.
- Develop an impressive resume that displays your strengths and accomplishments
- Construct and initiate a contact program of individuals who are working in your industry and your target companies.
- Set realistic goals and develop a time-action plan.

Change and *some* risk are good things. In leadership training, executives are encouraged to introduce some change every two years, to keep things fresh and to inspire passion in their employees. If you feel that you need a change, or if an opportunity is presenting itself to you, you should not hesitate to test the waters. If you follow the steps listed above, you will minimize your risks and be able to make an educated decision on whether to stay where you are, or to make the move. In the midst of this economic storm, only you can decide whether you are the swimmer who needs to stay close to shore, or the surfer who dives in and catches the perfect wave!

Check out our new website and our new services at:

<http://www.ambassadorconsulting.com>

Life is about taking leaps