

Find Your Fit in Life

Idea Filter™

Does your Idea really fit you?

For an idea (or vocational possibility) to really fit it needs to align with who you are at the core, where you are headed, and how you desire to get there. If there is misalignment at any level, it won't be sustainable - you will not have energy for it over the long haul. To evaluate an idea or vocational possibility effectively you must reflect on how it impacts each aspect of you. The Idea Filter provides the framework to do that.

The Idea Filter provides separate categories for each aspect of an individual, and key aspects of the Idea. The categories are listed in order of importance from top to bottom. Each category is color coded to represent the level of alignment with the individual.

Green means good - this idea aligns well

Yellow means caution - something doesn't fit. If you don't pay attention or make a modification this could be an issue, or lead to mis-alignment.

Red means crisis - this idea is mis-aligned with you. Something must change before this idea can work

The Idea Filter can be used effectively with the three foundation pieces alone - Core Talents, Heart, and Personal Thinking Style. Any misalignment in these three is very significant. However some Ideas may align well with the foundational pieces, yet have significant misalignment elsewhere. As more categories are included on the filter greater clarity is gained on where misalignment may exist.

If red shows up on the filter, it means the Idea *as it is defined* is misaligned. In almost every instance changes can be made to the Idea that will allow it to come into alignment. Creative thinking is key for generating new possibilities based on an existing Idea.

Editing your Idea Filter

Use the following pages to reflect on each component of the filter. Select a color based on the answer to the question for each component - green, yellow, red. Edit the text and highlight color to reflect your selection. If you are missing a component of the filter simply clear the text from that component. Summarize the results of your selection at the bottom.

If red shows up on the filter, something needs to change for that Idea (or vocational possibility) to truly fit you. Before discounting it, brainstorm ways that the Idea could be modified or changed to turn the red to green or yellow.

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Idea Filter™ Foundation Components

Core Talents - What are you naturally great at?

Core Talents refer to those things you do innately well. They are unique to you. They are much more than passion, or skill. Others may share the same skills as you, but it is highly unlikely that anyone shares the same combination of core talents. What you do with your skills and proficiencies is unique to you. Combining your core talents with your passions and proficiencies leads to a powerful combination. Core talents are what you are. Exercising them is how your giftedness is manifested.

Does your Idea allow you to exercise your Core Talents?

Heart - What gives you meaning and purpose?

Heart refers to empathy, attraction, or draw towards something - a group of people, a field of expertise, a particular type of service, a need, injustice, or imbalance. Heart is where you are centered. It is where you wish to use your core talents. Remember, core strengths point to what you are - heart is where you feel fulfilled when you apply what you are. Life will have little meaning or purpose if you are NOT allowed to do what speaks to your heart.

Does your Idea align with and speak to your heart?

Personal Thinking Style™ - How do you think and interact with the world?

Personal Thinking Style (PTS) refers to how you think and interact - your personal way of dealing with uncertainty, handling change, juggling variables, and structuring your world. It identifies where you fall on the spectrum from concrete to abstract thinking.

Does your Idea allow you to function predominantly in your Personal Thinking Style sweet spot?

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Idea Filter™ Core Statements

Core Purpose - Why do you exist?

A core purpose statement answers the question of why you exist. It will succinctly capture the essence of your core strengths and your heart. A great core purpose statement will be one sentence, 14 words or less. A core purpose statement transcends one particular activity or field of expertise - it is not vocation specific.

Does your Idea allow you to live out your Core Purpose?

Personal Vision - Where are you headed?

Vision is your core purpose run out into the future. It is BIG, yet it is rooted in your core purpose. Vision that isn't rooted in purpose is called a pipe dream! A vision statement answers the question of where you are headed.

Does your Idea allow you to live out your Vision?

Personal Mission - What must you do to get there?

Mission turns vision into action. A mission statement answers the question of what you must do to make your vision a reality. A good mission statement is measurable and attainable. Mission statements are dynamic and WILL change as goals are achieved.

Does your Idea allow you to live out your Mission?

Core Values - What keeps you on track?

Core values are those unshakable beliefs that define how you relate to others, set your priorities, and provide a framework for decision making. They are the riverbanks that keep the water flowing on course. If violated, your conscience will scream.

Does your Idea align with your Core Values?

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Idea Filter™ Secondary Components

Risk Drivers - What will keep you from getting there?

Risk drivers are those things that will sabotage, blindside, trip up, or bring to a halt your ability to live out your core purpose. They are internal - your own patterns that prevent you from stepping into your greatness. They commonly fall under the following categories: fears, finances, boundaries (or lack thereof), habits, addictions, vulnerabilities, pride, personality traits, and time management.

Will your Risk Drivers prevent you from turning your Idea into a reality?

Income Potential - What revenue can it generate?

It is possible to have a great idea that aligns well with the individual, yet it is not economically sustainable. A quick review of the income potential of the Idea at this stage of the process can save significant hardship down the road.

Does your Idea have sufficient income potential?

Investment Required - What is required to make it happen?

Any Idea will require an investment of time and most likely an investment of finances.

Can you make the required investment, both in time and money, for success with your Idea?

Location - Where will it be located?

Location refers to where you are. Some Ideas require a very specific geographic location, others have great flexibility. Sometimes life circumstances require a specific geographical region.

Does your Idea allow a location that fits you?

Environment - What will the workplace look like?

Environment refers to your surroundings, including physical space, level of interaction and stimulation. It is possible that an Idea requires an environment that does not fit (for example - working alone when a high level of interaction is important).

Does your Idea provide an environment that is conducive to you?

Needs - What do you need to stay recharged?

Needs are those things that you need to keep your tank full. They can be physical, intellectual, emotional, and spiritual.

Does your Idea allow you to meet your needs?

Passions - What makes work play?

Passions make work play and cause time to melt away. An Idea does not have to be based on passions, but is commonly based on the root of passions. A good Idea allows the space for passions.

Does your Idea engage your passions, or allow the space and time for you to engage your passions?

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Idea Filter™

Option A: description here

Option B: description here

Option C: description here

	Option A	Option B	Option C
Core Strengths	Edit Color	Edit Color	Edit Color
Heart	Edit Color	Edit Color	Edit Color
Personal Thinking Style™	Edit Color	Edit Color	Edit Color
Core Purpose	Edit Color	Edit Color	Edit Color
Personal Vision	Edit Color	Edit Color	Edit Color
Personal Mission	Edit Color	Edit Color	Edit Color
Core Values	Edit Color	Edit Color	Edit Color
Risk Drivers	Edit Color	Edit Color	Edit Color
Income Potential	Edit Color	Edit Color	Edit Color
Investment Required	Edit Color	Edit Color	Edit Color
Location	Edit Color	Edit Color	Edit Color
Environment	Edit Color	Edit Color	Edit Color
Needs	Edit Color	Edit Color	Edit Color
Passions	Edit Color	Edit Color	Edit Color
Results	Edit Color	Edit Color	Edit Color