

## #1: Fandom Is a Way to Understand Yourself

You Can Find . . .	You'll see them . . .
What skills you like to use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ In your activities – from writing fanfic to maintaining a website.</li> <li>✓ In what you take time to learn for the sake of your hobbies.</li> <li>✓ What you've picked up “along the way.”</li> </ul>
What areas of interest you have.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ In your interest in given industries – such as anime or video games.</li> <li>✓ The kind of people you'd like to work with.</li> <li>✓ What kind of jobs you like to do.</li> <li>✓ What locations you'd want to work in.</li> </ul>
What you value.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ What you truly care about doing – what you spend time, money, and effort on.</li> <li>✓ Who you care about – who you do things for and interest with.</li> </ul>

### Your Next Actions:

- List what skills, areas of interests and values you learned in fandom!
- Next, think of careers that let you combine them!

### Resources:

- **Finding Your Own North Star: Claiming the Life You Were Meant to Live** by Martha Beck. A great book on figuring out your interests and goals.
- **The Occupational Outlook Handbook** – Released yearly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Find online information at <http://www.bls.gov/oco/home.htm>

## #2: Fandom Is A Way To Improve Yourself

Things To Do . . .	You Can Do Them By . . .
Grow your Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Improve skills you have.</li><li>✓ Gain new skills in a supportive environment.</li><li>✓ Gain general and specific skills.</li></ul>
Leverage your Habits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Use your organizational habits.</li><li>✓ Use your self-improvement habits.</li><li>✓ Use your social habits.</li></ul>
Get Informed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Learn about careers in fandom.</li><li>✓ Learn about industries in fandom.</li><li>✓ Learn about the economy – from all the news.</li></ul>
Get Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ You learn how to connect with people.</li><li>✓ You learn how to collaborate.</li><li>✓ You learn about social media.</li></ul>

### Your Next Actions:

- 1) List the areas of your career you need to improve.
- 2) Ask which of your fandom activities you can use to improve yourself.
- 3) Then – put it into action!

### #3: Fandom Lets you Connect With Others

Things To Do . . .	Examples . . .
Show Your Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Filling a portfolio with work.</li><li>✓ Publish your work, experiences, etc. in blogs and online.</li></ul>
Promote Yourself	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ You may be in news articles.</li><li>✓ You may find job references.</li></ul>
Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ You can meet people from various industries.</li><li>✓ You can meet fellow fans with similar interests and goals.</li><li>✓ You meet role models.</li><li>✓ You may even find job opportunities.</li></ul>

Never forget – you should have your own “personal” business card and some kind of online presence such as a website or blog!

#### Resources:

- **Never Eat Alone: And Other Secrets to Success, One Relationship at a Time** by Keith Ferrazzi – The classic guide to networking. May also be a bit more than some younger people can handle.
- **Me 2.0: Build a Powerful Brand to Achieve Career Success** by Dan Schawbel. The guru of personal branding discusses how people build their own brand and image.
- <http://www.meetup.com/> - A meeting organization site that lets you find – and start – in person meetups. Many game-heavy areas have meetings for game professionals.
- <http://www.linkedin.com/> - The premier business networking tool. A profile here is a must

## #4: Fandom Lets You Make Big Changes

You Might . . .	Fandom Helps By . . .
Relocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Helping you find places to relocate to.</li><li>✓ Giving you opportunities to scout locations.</li><li>✓ Giving you help relocating.</li></ul>
Start Your Own Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Being a source of ideas.</li><li>✓ Being a source of feedback.</li><li>✓ Provides help via “Fansourcing”</li><li>✓ Providing a source of customers.</li></ul>
Start a New Career	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Get new ideas for a career.</li><li>✓ Meet new role models.</li><li>✓ Find Inspiration</li></ul>

### Resources:

- **The Unwritten Rules of the Highly Effective Job Search: The Proven Program Used by the Worlds Leading Career Services Company** by Orville Pierson – A straightforward non-nonsense career guide.

## WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Contact Steven Savage at <http://www.stevensavage.com/>. I speak, write, and coach on geeky jobs!

Buy the book at <http://www.informotron.com/>.