

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

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

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

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

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/>.

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