

## ARE YOU LOOKING FOR YOUR BEST COLLEGE MAJOR IN THE DARK?

You just don't know. You have some favorite subjects in high school, plus some others that you're good at but don't really enjoy as much. You've been to a few career days and you've even met with your Guidance Counselor (at least in one of those rare moments when he's available after helping any one of the other 600 students in your school).

But after all that, you still aren't sure. If one more family member asks you if you've decided "what you want to be when you grow up", you think you'll scream.

Decision time is fast approaching and the closer it gets, the more pressure you feel. You know college isn't cheap, and you don't want to waste anyone's time or money or to let your parents down by making the wrong choice.

You envy all your friends who've known what they want to study for ages now – but not you – you just don't know.

Don't Panic!! You are not alone. Just because our education systems assume that you will pop-out at the end with a clear picture of which major, which college, and which career, the reality is that thousands of students don't fit into that mold. Be proud of the fact that you care enough about the rest of your working life to give a lot of thought to the choices you are required to make as you reach the end of high school.

Consider this: rather than focusing all your efforts on what everyone else is doing and the choices they are making, turn your attention inside and focus on learning as much about yourself as you can. After all, the more you know about yourself in terms of both strengths and weaknesses, the better position you will be in to identify what you ***don't*** want to do as well as what you ***do*** want to do.

One of the best tools for such an exercise is a personality profile that will help you to identify your core personality traits. Through a series of questions, you can identify not only your preferences, but also the relative degree of clarity of those preferences – in other words, you can find out not only what you feel strongly about, but also how strongly you feel about those preferences.

To be clear, we're not talking about those aptitude tests you may have taken at school to identify the subjects you could expect to do well in. What we're talking about here is developing a deeper understanding of yourself as a unique individual with a unique set of personality preferences that determine how you view the world, how you interact with that world, and how you make decisions as you build a life in that world.

The goal is not to label or pigeonhole you into a specific category. Understanding your personality helps you to identify what drives you as an individual – what motivates and excites you as well as what might de-motivate and bore you. Armed

with that information, you will be better positioned to select a major that will allow you to ***thrive*** in college rather than to simply ***survive*** the experience.