Identify Your Work Values

Career Center: Decide it. Experience it. Live it.

The following list describes a variety of satisfactions people obtain from their jobs. This list and the following process may help you clarify your values (what is important to you) in relation to the world of work.

DIRECTIONS:
1. Read each definition and check the items you would like as part of your ideal job.
2. Review the items you have checked, and identify the 10 items you want most.
3. Review these 10 items and prioritize them (1 as most important, 10 as least important).

____ Help Society: Do something to contribute to the betterment of communities or the world.
____ Help Others: Be involved in helping people in a direct way, either individually or in a small group.
____ Esthetics: Make beautiful things and contribute to the beauty of the world.
____ Creativity (general): Create new ideas, programs, products, organizational structures or anything else not following a format previously developed by others.
____ Work Alone: Do projects by myself, without any significant amount of contact with others.
____ Public Contact: Have a lot of day-to-day contact with people.
____ Work With Associates: Have close working relationships with a group; work as a team toward common goals.
____ Friendships: Develop close personal relationships with people as a result of my work activities, get along well with (perhaps even socialize off hours with) my colleagues.
____ Competition: Engage in activities that pit my abilities against others where there are clear "win" and "lose" outcomes.
____ Knowledge: Engage myself in the pursuit of knowledge, truth, and understanding for knowledge sake.
____ Intellectual status: Be regarded as a person of high intellectual powers or as one who is an acknowledged expert in a given field.
____ Recognition: Be recognized by others for my quality of work in some visible or public way.
____ Achievement: Have personal satisfaction and a feeling of accomplishment in position.
____ Supervisory Relationship: Have a fair supervisor with whom I get along well.
____ Power and Authority: Work which permits me to plan, layout, supervise, and be directly responsible for the work activities or (partially) the destinies of other people.
____ Make Decisions: Have the power to decide courses of action, policies, etc.
____ Fast Pace: Work in circumstances where there is a high pace of activity, work must be done rapidly.
____ Excitement: Experience a high degree of (or frequent) excitement in the course of my work.
____ Adventure: Have work duties that involve frequent risk-taking.
____ Change and Variety: Have work responsibilities that frequently change their content and setting.
____ Independence: Be able to determine the nature of my work and how I approach it without significant direction from others; do not have to do what others tell me to do.
____ Time Freedom: Have work responsibilities that I can fulfill according to my own schedule; no specific working hours required.
____ Way of Life: Position that allows me to maintain my own identity in the workplace in terms of dress, speech, decorating my office, listening to music, eating at my desk, etc.
____ Location: Find a place to live (town, geographical area) which is conducive to my lifestyle and affords me the opportunity to do the things I enjoy most.
____ Surroundings: Have an environment (physically) which appeals to me in terms of temperature, noise level, ability for privacy, view from office, cleanliness, newness of building, furniture, decorating, etc.
____ Stability: Have work routine and job duties that are largely predictable and not likely to change over a long period of time.
____ Security: Be assured of keeping my job and a reasonable financial reward.
____ Profit/Gain: Have a strong likelihood of accumulating large amounts of money or other material gain.