

Vocation as Discovery (classroom presentation)

NOTES and LINKS

The brief demonstration "Vocation: Something we discover instead of choose" is a segment of a First Year Seminar classroom presentation (Introduction to Vocation & Calling).

The classroom presentation is designed to provide students with several possible ways to connect with the idea/experience of Vocation and Calling.

I begin the classroom presentation with examples that illustrate possible ways in which:

Vocation is about WHO you are.

Vocation is about WHERE you are.

Vocation is about your connection to OTHERS.

Vocation/Calling in Employment

I begin with "employment" because many students feel that this is a simple way to understand vocation & calling, even though vocation encompasses much more than employment.

We use a Prezi for this part of the classroom presentation:

<https://tinyurl.com/vocation-prezi>

Job → Career → Vocation

Skills = **JOB**

Skills + Interests = **CAREER**

Skills + Interests + Meaning & Purpose = **VOCATION**

Midway through the Prezi, I introduce the "arm-folding" exercise

Vocation/Calling as Discovery, not Choice (and a Visceral Experience)

The arm-folding exercise also provides a vehicle for illustrating that **skills** are not sufficient to achieve a sense of **fit** in one's work. It also provides a vehicle for illustrating that **engagement** is necessary in order to discover one's preferences, or vocation. "Thinking about" our preferences, vocation, or even potential interests is insufficient.

An article explains the primary components of the arm-folding exercise:

Free Will, Choice, and Discovery on the Career Voyage

<https://tinyurl.com/free-will-choice>

Three Classic Perspectives on Vocation

This element of the classroom presentation uses a PowerPoint that you should find on the NetVUE conference website.

Serve “the neighbor”

– MARTIN LUTHER

I emphasize that Luther's “neighbor” can be interpreted broadly, to include (first) anyone with any issue/need that we notice, and (second) any issue/need that we notice in the world. We do not all notice the same “neighbors”, so it is important to pay attention to what we notice. This also emphasizes the connection to others.

Follow your bliss

– JOSEPH CAMPBELL

We discuss the difference between bliss and happiness.

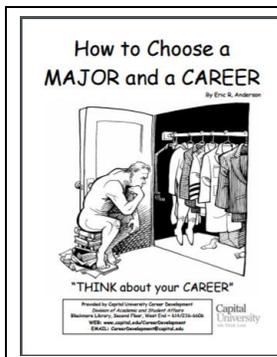
Find the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet

– FREDERICK BUECHNER

This is a nice blend of Campbell (deep gladness, bliss) and Luther (world's deep hunger, the neighbor).

Vocation-related exercise

Some students find it easier to respond to prompts, like those in the exercise in the booklet listed below. In particular, the questions on page 10 can provide other pathways for understanding vocation & calling. I walk them through this exercise, spending most time on page 10.



How to Choose a Major and a Career (booklet)

First link on this page:

www.capital.edu/majors-careers

Quick Career Clues from your Life Story (p. 8)

Contact me if you have questions about any of the elements of this classroom presentation.

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