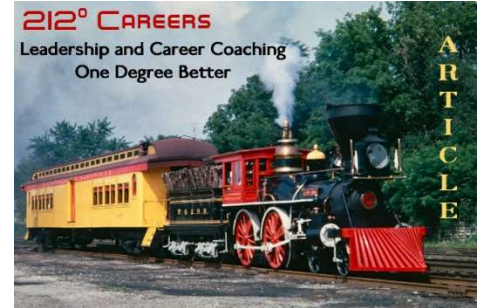


WHAT DO LIFELONG LEARNING TOOLS LOOK LIKE?

Most jobs have certain tools that help you get the job done. Carpenters need hammers and saws, and a fisherman needs a rod and reel. Tools may differ from one job to the next or be exactly the same. You can use a pair of scissors to cut someone's hair or to help you complete an arts and crafts project.



Where lifelong learning is concerned, there are a limitless number of tools at your disposal.

Maybe you're a visual learner. Then watching videos on YouTube might be perfect for you. You can stop them at any moment and take notes. If you're watching a how-to video, pause it and do what they told you to do. Then take the next step in the process. This hands-on education is great because you can return to any point in the video if uncertain about what's being taught.

Another benefit of watching videos online is that there are billions of them out there that cost nothing for you to view.

Sometimes a person has a great desire to learn something. Then the money gets in the way. They don't have the required investment to take a course or hire a personal instructor. The perfect solution is to watch free videos online that explain a process or teach a skill.

Are You a "Real World" Learner?

Some people refer to the Internet as a virtual world. It's not real life to the extent that it can be experienced as you experience physically interacting with the "real world." Some people prefer this real-world process of learning things instead of obtaining knowledge online. They need to touch, see and feel something to understand how it works.

If this is you, you may prefer one-on-one, personal interaction as your learning platform. Get a friend to help you if you can't afford to pay a professional. Maybe a family member or coworker has a skill you would like to obtain. Ask them to teach you; in return, you can help them learn something you know a lot about.

You can sign up for free group classes given in your local area. Your local Chamber of Commerce, colleges and universities, fraternal organizations, and churches often give classes on various subjects without charging a fee. A quick web search for seminars in your city might reveal more local, real-world learning experiences.

Apps and blogs can teach you a lot. So can websites and online webinars. There are so many virtual learning tools you can teach yourself about anything. The offline tools are just as limitless.

Think about how you learn most effectively. Then start building a learning toolbox that's suited to your learning style. Learning the way that feels most comfortable to you will help you enjoy the experience. That means loving a lifelong approach to learning rather than regretting when you have to learn something new.

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