



## The holidays: The right time to plan your move!

By Jennifer Kahnweiler, Friday, December 1, 2006, 08:03 AM  
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

So you are thinking about a change in job, careers or even bosses! Conventional wisdom is that during the holidays, job searches screech to a complete halt. Wrong!

Think about it - you can catch people in the office and they may be more likely to see your email (since lots of folks are gone) and, better yet, they might respond (the holiday spirit and all, etc.)

I do think, though, that the best use of this time is to prepare a bang up marketing approach. Know what skills you are selling and where to aim your campaign so you can be effective out of the gate in '07.

So here are five ways to make December one that moves your career transition forward.

1. Talk to family members and friends about what strengths they see in you. Ask them for ideas about other career directions and networking contacts. They will open you up to new ways of looking at yourself.
2. Take a vacation day and go to the local bookstore. Spend time perusing the career section. You can do career assessment, get a format for your resume and even brush up on your interviews.
3. Start a career journal and record all the tips and ideas you receive as you are figuring out the next direction. Also use it to record your feelings and reactions. It will be great to refer to this as you continue your search.
4. Schedule time with a career coach to review the work you have done and to help you focus. Check out [www.gcda.net](http://www.gcda.net) or [www.ncda.org](http://www.ncda.org) for names.
5. Set a goal to have 5 networking meetings (phone can work). Prepare for questions for these sessions.

Note: If you are in a business that is slammed this month just do your prep in January.

Have the holidays been lucky for you? What other suggestions you have to maximize this holiday job search time?