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Surprisingly Marketable Job Skills

by Heather Boerner, for Yahoo! Hot Jobs

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Surfing Facebook, cracking jokes, gossiping, or obsessing about global warming. At best, these behaviors -- when done on the job -- can distract you from paid work. At worst, some can be grounds for disciplinary action.

Think again.

"This is what's required today: Look at what you love to do, and find the skill in that," says Kathy Caprino, author of *Breakdown, Breakthrough: The Professional Woman's Guide to Claiming a Life of Passion, Power and Purpose*. "That's the key to success in this economy."

Check out these pursuits-turned-skills and their potential career matches:

Internet addiction = Social Media Publicist

When Termeh Mazhar worked from home as a freelancer, he hid his obsession with YouTube fat-cat videos, Facebook, Twitter and MySpace from his clients. Today, they're his job. As a social media publicist, Mazhar works for a PR agency generating buzz for his clients on LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, as well as writing his own blog and tracking his client's online competitors.

A flair for the dramatic/comedic timing = Teaching

It's not all you need, but commanding a room is key to teaching success.

"People who are natural performers often tend to be good one-on-one communicators," says Alexandra Levit, author of *How'd You Score That Gig? A Guide to the Coolest Careers and How to Get Them*. "If you want to educate people effectively, you also have to be able to entertain them."

Gossiping = Blogger

If you have a flair for the dramatic, a strong work ethic and an ability to hunt down good tidbits and make sure they're accurate, you can thrive as a professional blogger. Companies like Gawker hire writers to pen entertaining and newsy bits several times a day. Or build up your expertise in a subject area and market your work until advertising revenues support you.

A stint at the Gap = Almost any corporate job

"Young professionals often tell me they don't want to put their summer job at the Gap on their [resume](#), but as we talk about it more, inevitably we uncover loads of experience that's useful in today's business world," says Levit. "Nowadays, every department is a business and every team member a salesperson. Retail experience means you know how to engage in activities that meet customer needs."

Getting Mom into the right nursing home = Elder Care Consultant

"Frankly, it's a relief for the Baby Boomer generation, sandwiched between elderly parents and children, to get some help," says Caprino. "People in this field must be compassionate, organized, connected to a great network of lawyers, financial consultants and understand the law and insurance. They really provide a deep array of consulting services." Often, they have a social-work degree.

An obsession with global warming = Sustainability Coordinator

It takes more than watching "An Inconvenient Truth," but if you follow the scientific data on climate change and have a facility with numbers, you may be able to parlay that into a job helping corporations, universities and colleges reduce their carbon footprints. The jobs often require an environmental studies or engineering degree.

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