



# *What If? Just A.S.K.*

**The Magazine**

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• Summer 2019

# What If? Just A.S.K.

August [2019]

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### *The Philosophy*

**1** An understanding of the principles behind What If? Just A.S.K.

### *Can You Dream?*

**2** How important are dreams? Are we missing an important aspect of dealing with our youth when we don't ask them about their dreams.

### *How Cool is it Travel?*

**3** This can be one of the greatest tools for learning. Explore 17 key reasons traveling is so cool.

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# 1 | The Philosophy

Rodney D. Brooks



WHAT IF? JUST A.S.K.®

We believe the A.S.K. tool is essential in helping individuals to think of and look at alternatives. We believe that forward thinking drives ultimate success. We also believe that without a fundamental methodology that it is possible to stay focused.

What If?

What if you could change, improve, or become an influence in those things you desired to embark on? Would you do it? If someone asked you how would you do it, could you tell them how?

**Ask the Question**

We dare you to ask yourself the question: “What if I could be or do whatever I dreamed of or felt inspired to do?” Everything starts with a question. The question is what challenges, motivates, and inspires you to take action. If you are not inspired to action, then action will not be taken. Since the question is “What if?,” then you are automatically challenged to see other alternatives or a better way of doing or envisioning things. So ask yourself...

“What If I...?”

## **Seek the Answer within Yourself First, and Then Use Your Resources**

Challenge yourself to answer the question.

The question is going to drive your passions and your beliefs, which mean the answer is going to come from within you. Seeking the answer from within also drives the “how.”

The how is what stimulates your mind. This is what helps you to understand yourself and your passion for wanting to be the best, improving the situations that you want to see improved, and inspiring others around you to do the same. Your resources become a validation of what you may already have discovered within yourself. Your resources may also challenge you to think of other questions and to dig deeper into your question and its solution.

## **Know and Believe In Your Abilities**

If you do not know and understand your abilities, then no one else will. No one knows you better than you. No one knows what you are passionate about and your dreams better than you. You can ask the question and answer the question. However, if you don't believe that you can fulfill your dreams and do those things that you are passionate about or change those things that you would like to see changed, then it is time to start over and re-evaluate the question. Knowing and

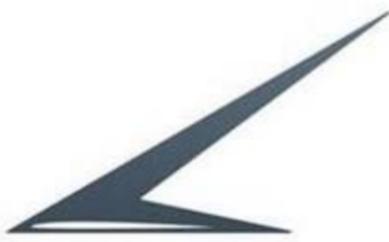
believing in your abilities also helps you to improve on those abilities. It pushes you to be the best that you can be and it drives honesty within yourself. No one automatically has all the skills to reach their dreams or make the changes that they desire. It takes work, hard work. That work starts with learning and then constantly improving on those things that you need to improve on or make better and stronger. A better you means a better person for society! Now that you know the recipe for your success, your change, and your dreams; just A.S.K. and dare to make a difference!



Founders Breanne Brooks and Rodney D. Brooks



I have the  
ability to  
be the best  
that I can  
be!!!



**W.I.? J.A.-nnect**  
**Career Center**



**One Stop Connection**

<https://www.whatifjustask.com/wija-nnect-career-center-1.html>

# 2 | Can You Dream?

Dr. Julie Conner



I've shown others how to define their direction and create attainable goals for more than three decades. How I do it and why I do it completely changed during a conversation with high school students – and a mistake I made when I asked a question.

Several years ago, I guided a group of seniors through collaborative goal-setting exercises. An 18-year-old boy barked questions at me from across the room as I assisted several girls who were working on a project.

“What should I do next?” he shouted.

I meant to ask, “Tell me about your goal.” But I was distracted. Instead, I asked, “Tell me about your dream.”

His classmates stopped talking to listen to his response.

“I don't know,” he admitted. Tears welled in his eyes. “No one's ever asked me that question before.”

Eighteen years old and no one ever asked him about his dream.

That is a tragedy. However, mistakes often open doors to new opportunities.

I asked myself, “How often have I showed students how to reach extrinsic goals without showing them how to use organizational planning tools to pursue intrinsic desires?” Planners and calendars are designed to organize activities in ways that help us complete tasks – tasks that are often attached to someone else's goals. When we use these tools without awareness of our own aspirations or claim to our own dreams, we become dependent on others to lead us and point us in the “right” direction. We allow others to determine the “right” direction for us.

Goals without a dream are like arrows without a target

When children are in kindergarten and primary school, we encourage them to dream big. We often ask them, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” We applaud their brave imaginations and optimistic enthusiasm when they say, “I want to be president!” “I want to win an Olympic medal ...”

until they enter junior high. Then we warn them to be sensible and practical when they select their classes. We encourage them to enroll in courses that align with realistic careers that draw lucrative incomes. As a speaker and educator, I showed students how to use planners and organizers to structure their schedules in ways that prepared them for high school – which prepared them for college – which prepared them for adulthood.

Continued on page 8



*"The achievement of accomplishing  
your dreams lie on the other side of  
fear. One must move beyond fear and  
out of their comfort zone to achieve their  
dream"*

**Rodney D. Brooks**  
Author & Co-Founder of What IF? Just A.S.K.  
President of BBV2M LLC



<https://www.whatifjustask.com>

# 3 | How Cool is it to Travel?



## Can You Dream? continued

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To further complicate matters, many junior high schools forced into budgetary cuts remove classes like physical education, music, and art from their course offerings to include more core content classes like math, science, and reading. We forget that the creative arts are math's, science's, and reading's best friends. The arts fuel imagination, innovation, and invention.

“Imagination is more important than knowledge,” insisted Albert Einstein, physicist and Nobel laureate. “For knowledge is limited to all we now know and understand, while imagination embraces the entire world, and all there ever will be to know and understand.”

We must encourage young people to talk about their dreams. To discuss their passions with them in meaningful ways, you must be willing to ask yourself, “What is my dream?”

Traveling can be one of the most rewarding experiences that one can have. It allows you to see and do things that normally you would not do. Traveling while you are young or not tied to a job can prepare you for greater things in the future. *In the United States, the Boston Consulting Group reports, the millennial generation, defined as those between the ages of 16 and 34, is more interested than older generations in traveling abroad as much as possible—by a 23-percentage-point margin. The United Nations estimates that 20 percent of all international tourists, or nearly 200 million travelers, are young people, and that this demographic generates more than \$180 billion in annual tourism revenue, an increase of nearly 30 percent since 2007* Here are seventeen (17) cool reasons that AirTrek has listed regarding traveling:



### **1. Traveling is easier than you think.**

We believe that traveling around the world shouldn't be hard: it's actually something everyone should be able to do at least once in their lives. Whether you choose to spend a few years or just a couple months traveling this beautiful planet, it's important to see what's out there. It's up to you to make the dream come true and take the first step.

### **2. Travel opens your eyes.**

If you're open and willing, travel will make you an incredibly more well-rounded human being. And that's really the goal, isn't it?

### **3. Traveling helps you learn who you are.**

All the challenges and opportunities travel lays at your feet help you discover who you are in a way that's only possible on the road.

### **4. Travel creates meaningful relationships**

People you meet while on the road become some of the most valued names on your contact list. They become places on the map to visit later on. These folks give you a glimpse outside your hometown circle of friends, and force you to take in new and refreshing perspectives, and ultimately realize that everyone is the same.



### **5. Traveling develops skills you didn't know you had**

Sometimes it's only far from home that you realize you've got skills you've never used. It's travel that brings them to the surface and makes you smile, satisfied to have reached the mountain top, or crossed a gorge or helped a villager clean up after a storm, or even to have successfully ordered a meal at a rural Chinese restaurant.

### **6. Travel helps you learn new languages**

There's something satisfying about being able to throw around a few words of Greek, knowing how to say thanks in Thai, pulling out that long dormant Spanish to book a room in Santiago, or simply hearing a language you didn't know existed just a few weeks before.

### **7. Travel means adventure**

Zip-lining over the jungle canopy in Peru, successfully navigating the maze-like streets of Venice, bartering for the best price in the traditional markets of Marrakech, taking a speedboat ride in New Zealand, or hopping in a Land Rover and heading out to watch animals grazing in Tanzania: these are adventures worth having. People are hardwired for the excitement of adventure and travel may just be the best way to tap into it.

### **8. Traveling gives you perspective**

Meeting people from other cultures will teach you that the way *you've* been looking at the world isn't the way everybody else does. In fact, your point-of-view might have some major blind spots. Seeing the world for yourself will improve your vision and your grip on reality.

### **9. Travel helps you move forward**

If you're between jobs, schools, kids, or relationships, around the world travel can be a perfect way to move from one of these life stages into your next great adventure. A big trip won't just ease your transition into the next stage of your life, it'll give you a chance to reflect on where you've been, where you're going, and where you want to end up.

### **10. Travel is education**

Seeing the world provides an education that's absolutely impossible get in school. Travel teaches you economy, politics, history, geography, and sociology in an intense, hands-on way no class will. Fortunately, the school of travel is always taking applications, no entrance exam required.

### **11. Travel challenges you**

Getting your daily latte at the same place and staring at your screen at your nine-to-five every day not nearly interesting enough? Even if you choose to work on the road (and keep staring at the screen), you'll have to find a new place to drink your latte, and depending on your destination, finding coffee, and foamy milk or a good place to sip them could prove to be a sizeable challenge. Travel is full of moments of joy and challenges. Overcoming the challenges gives you some of the greatest joys of all.

### **12. Travel shakes things up**

It sucks to be stuck in a rut. Everyone knows what that's like. A big trip can be your perfect solution. Fly around the world, stopping over in all of the places you've always wanted to visit. Go ahead and plan your ideal route around the world (it's easier than you think!)



# 4 I Am A High School Graduate!!! Now What?

The euphoria of graduating high school. Twelve continuous years of learning. Successes and failures, challenges and opportunities. You have waited hard and long for this moment. It appears as if you have reached finish line. Let's celebrate and take a deep breath because I have arrived and want to glow in my success. Then all of a sudden someone ask you, What are you going to do now? For many the answer is a no brainer, they have prepared, planned and laid out their road map of what is next. It may range from working for an employer, volunteer community work, military, trade school, college, seek out their entrepreneurial dreams or just take a break (Gap Year). However, what if you have not thought about what is next? Then, what is your next move?

### 13. Traveling proves that dreams do come true

You imagined it, daydreamed about it, envisioned it. Guess what? It can be done. Around the world travel is possible, you just have to decide you're willing to take the first step and start planning your itinerary. What are you waiting for?

### 14. Travel gives you cool stories

Let's face it. Even for folks who can't tell a story, just the words "last year in Mongolia" get you instant party points. Even when events seem trivial, nostalgia and distance create an irresistible spin that makes mundane things like getting your laundry done in Zanzibar, entertaining. Just don't be *that* person and overdo it!

### 15. Travel is literally food for thought.

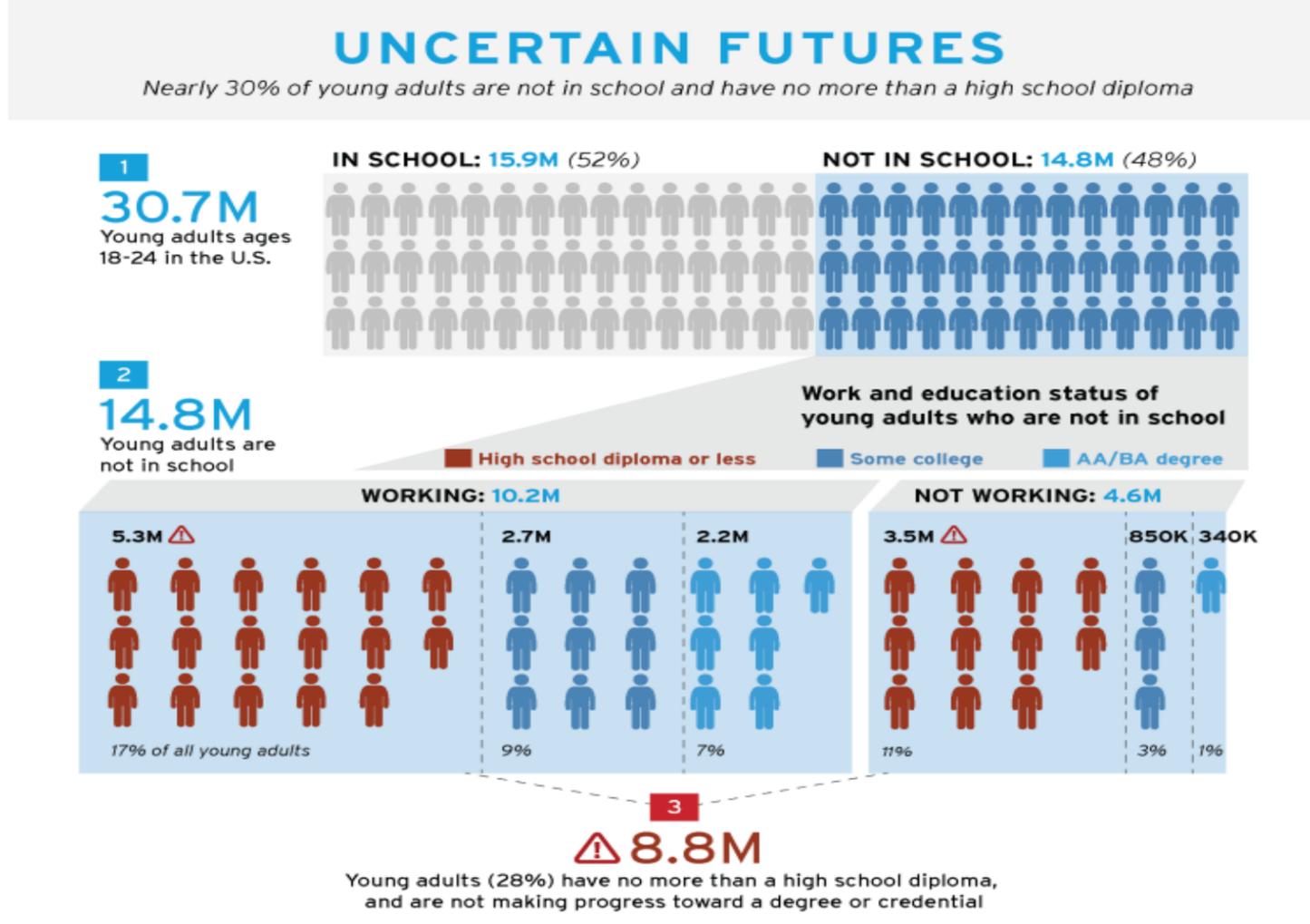
You'll be constantly surprised at the flavors the world has to offer. The way people in other cultures and countries prepare food, and break bread together (not that all cultures even eat bread) will astound you.

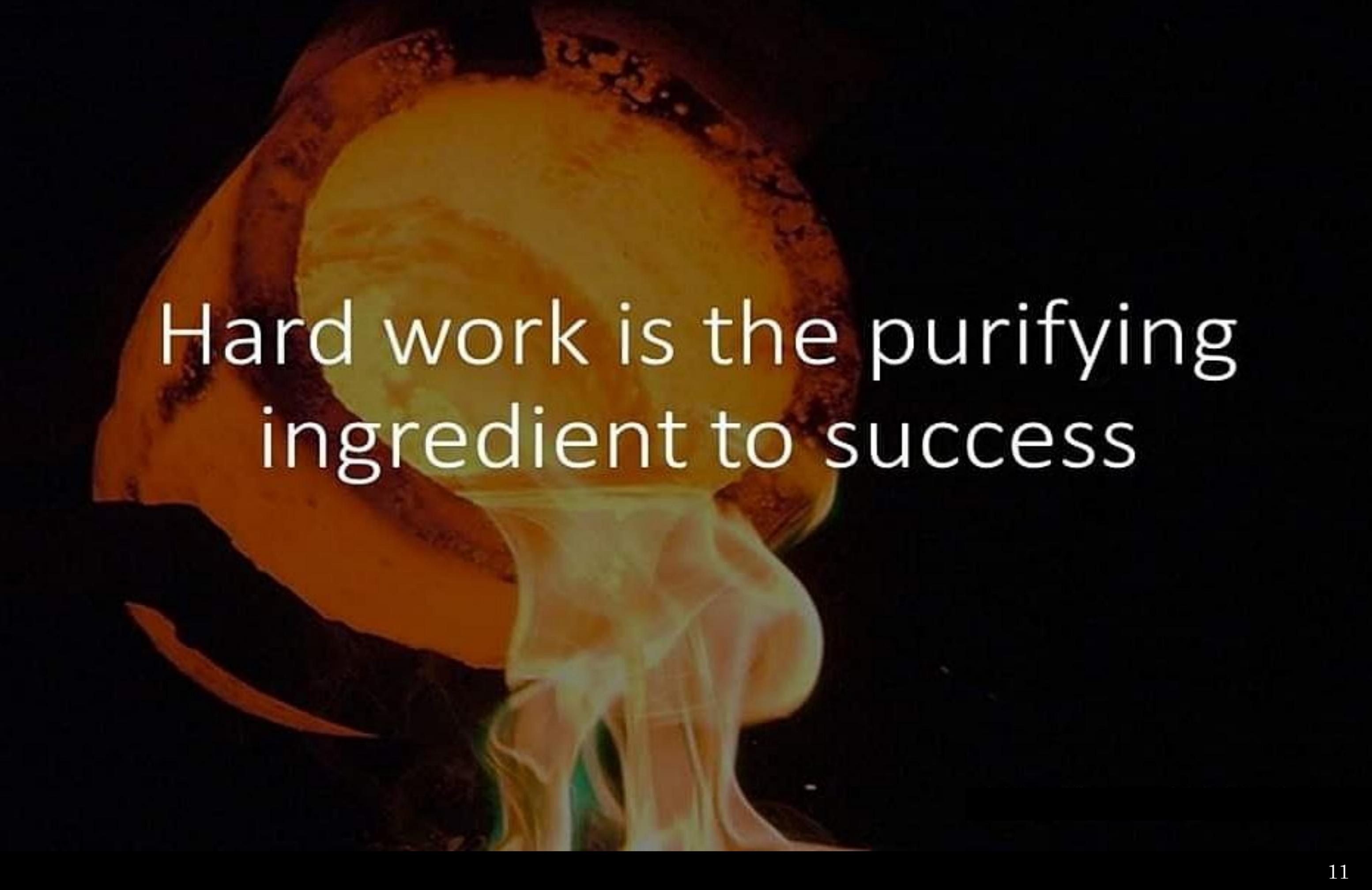
### 16. Travel gives you a sense of accomplishment

If you're the kind of person that dreams big, you're probably one to reach for new challenges. Finishing a trip gives you the satisfaction that you were able make a goal to travel and accomplish what you set out to do—see the world.

### 17. Traveling for the hell of it

Why travel? Because you can. Because you want to. Because it beats the alternative (staying home). Why not pick up your tickets and get the ball rolling!





Hard work is the purifying  
ingredient to success

# Potential

The qualities and capabilities that others see in  
you  
that makes you stick out from the crowd!!

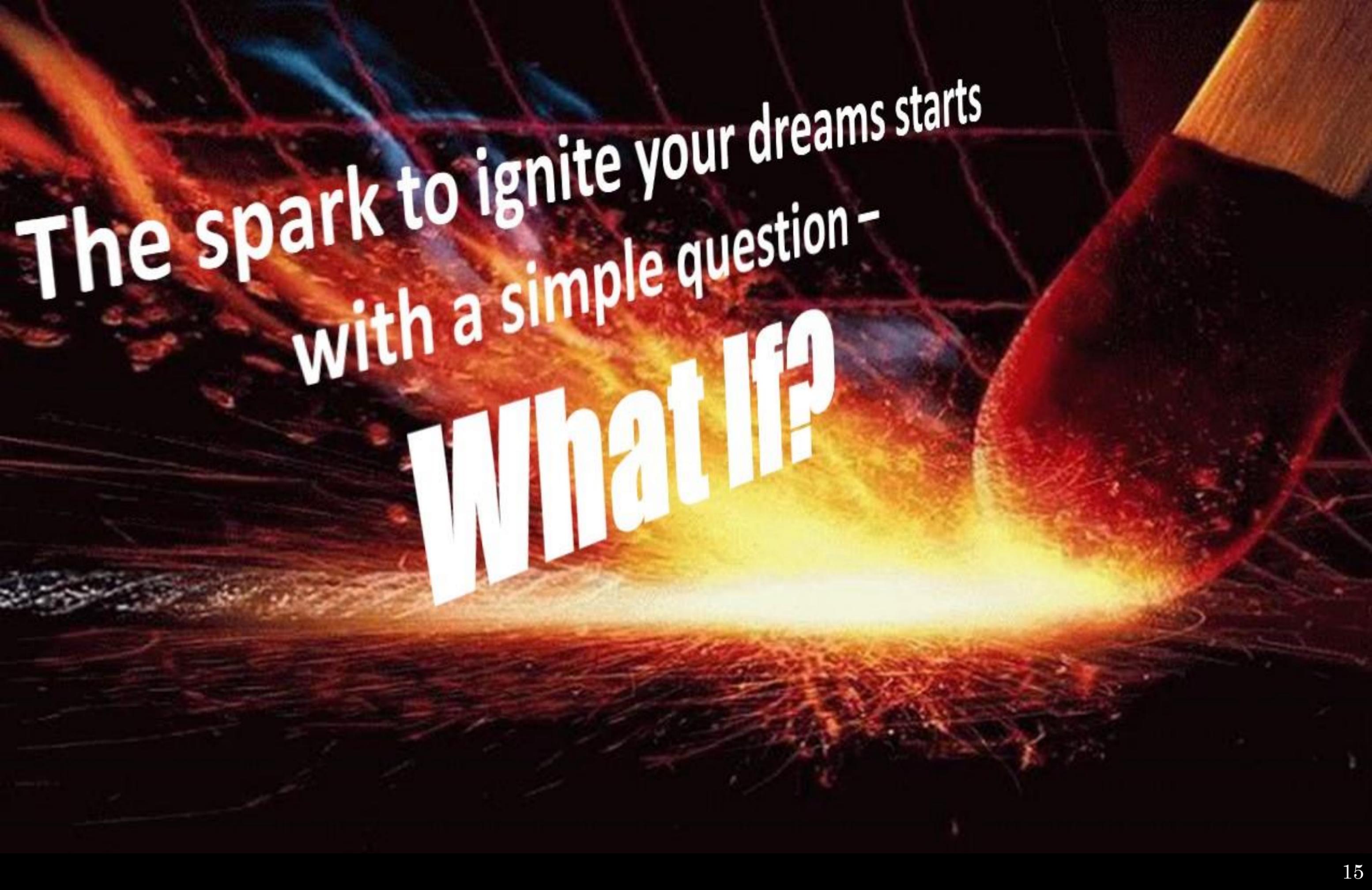


Would you like to maximize your potential? Just A.S.K.  
<https://www.whatifjustask.com>





Coming Soon – Taking Your Our Youth’s Imagination and Creativity to new heights. Get ready for a Funventurous Time!!!  
Visit the website at <https://www.thewallaroosla.com>



The spark to ignite your dreams starts  
with a simple question -

**What if?**



**CAREER PATHWAYS**  
CONSULTING

# The HR Insider

always has "inside" resources, tips, and offers!

Get on the "INSIDE"!



# 6 The Tools



## W.I.J.A Websites

The What if? Just A.S.K. websites are critical components to the delivery of key information to our youth. We have the luxury of three domains: What If? Just A.S.K.com, BBV2MLLC-What if? And What if 2bachristian.com. Our website offer our key development information, scholarship resource information, community information, critical thinking skill information, as well the latest in popular trends. A component to the website is the W.I.?J.A.NNECT Board which gives you one stop shopping as you evaluate your career whether is college, community work, job opportunities, military or trades schools. It has you covered.

<https://www.whatifjustask.com>

<http://www.wija-2bachristian.com>

## What If? Just A.S.K. Tool Kit APP

The content of the toolkit app supports the various topics that were discussed in the book “What If? Just A.S.K. How our youth can Changes, Improve and Influence those things that they desire.” The goal of the Tool Kit like the book is designed to teach and help our youth in their critical thinking skills as they seek to go after their dreams and goals. Key tools include:

What if Pledge Form ·

A.S.K. Worksheet ·

College Checklist ·

Building Your Personal Brand ·  
Community Volunteer Assessment  
Worksheet Career Interest Survey ·

Choosing a Career

Dignity & Respect Checklist ·

W.I.?J.A. Definition (Over 300 Career and  
Practical definitions) ·

A.S.K. Gap Assessment Sheet ·

Financial Resources Gap Closure  
worksheet · Dream Form ·

Dream Pursuit Plan

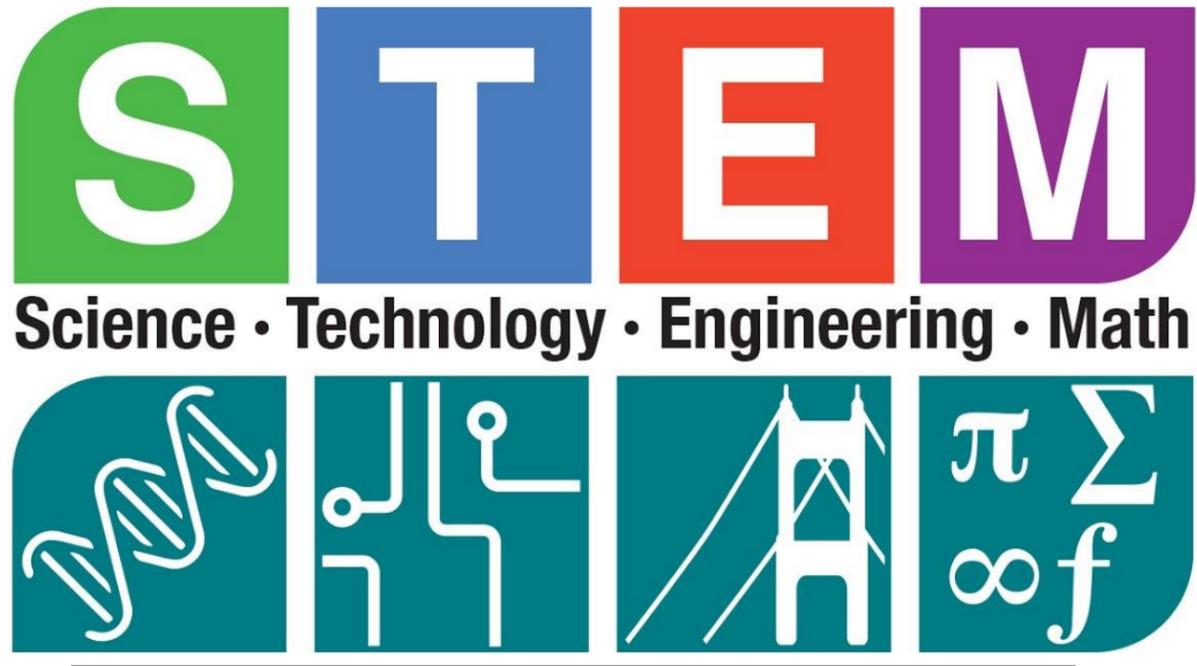
# Challenge – A task or situation that tests one's abilities

Want to make sure you are up for the challenge?  
Just A.S.K. <https://www.whatifjustask.com>



# 7 What is STEM Education?

Elaine J. Hom, LiveScience Contributor



STEM is a curriculum based on the idea of educating students in four specific disciplines — science, technology, engineering and mathematics — in an interdisciplinary and applied approach. Rather than teach the four disciplines as separate and discrete subjects, STEM integrates them into a cohesive learning paradigm based on real-world applications.

Though the United States has historically been a leader in these fields, fewer students have been focusing on these topics recently. According to the U.S. Department of Education, only 16 percent of high school students are interested in a STEM career and have proven a proficiency in mathematics. Currently, nearly 28 percent of high school freshmen declare an interest in a STEM-related field, a department website says, but 57 percent of these students will lose interest by the time they graduate from high school.

As a result, the Obama administration announced the 2009 "Educate to Innovate" campaign to motivate and inspire students to excel in STEM subjects.

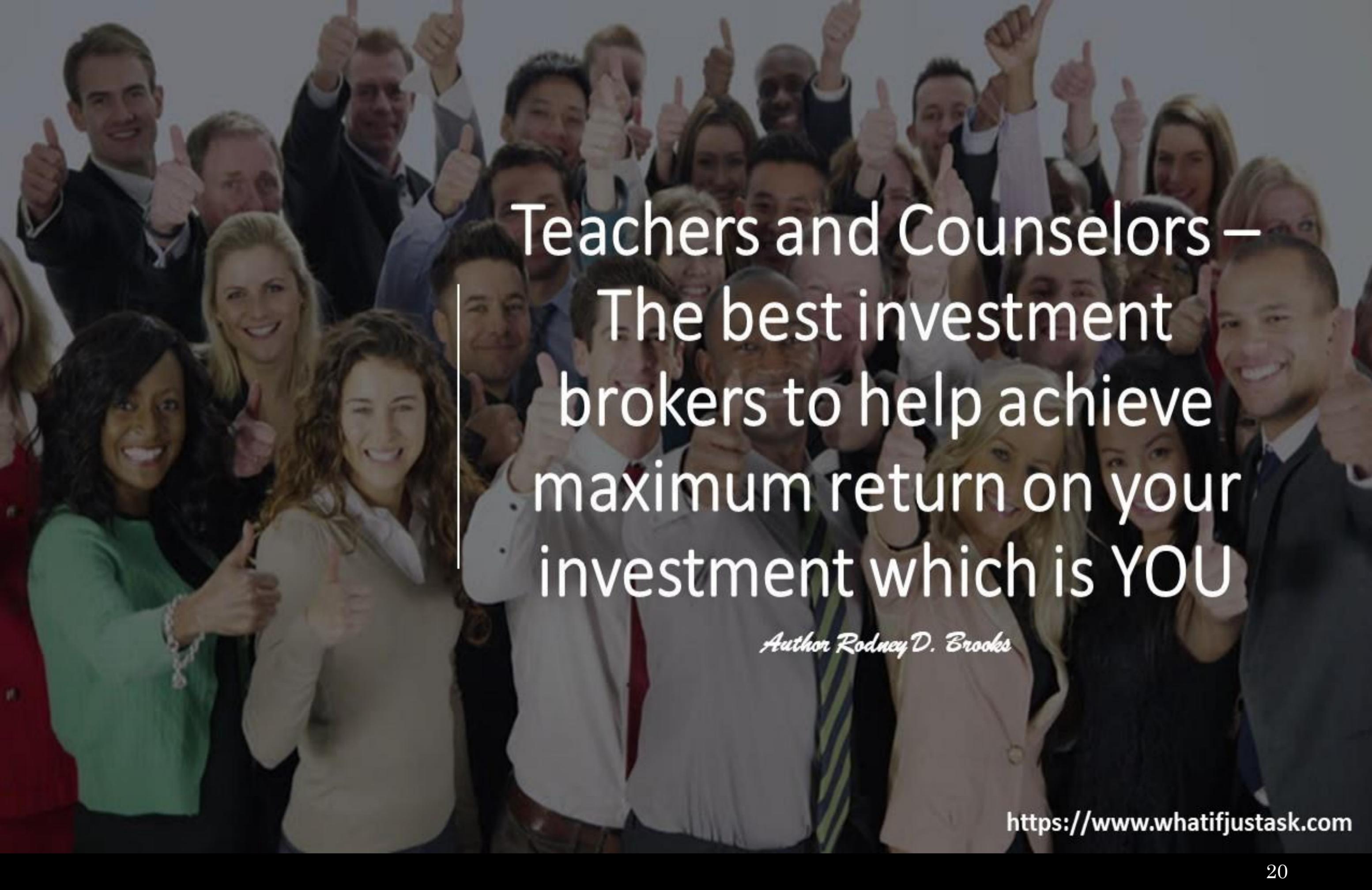
This campaign also addresses the inadequate number of teachers skilled to educate in these subjects. The goal is to get American students from the middle of the pack in science and math to the top of the pack in the international arena.

STEM jobs do not all require higher education or even a college degree. Less than half of entry-level STEM jobs require a bachelor's degree or higher. However, a four-year degree is incredibly helpful with salary — the average advertised starting salary for entry-level STEM jobs with a bachelor's requirement was 26 percent higher than jobs in the non-STEM fields, according to the STEMconnect report. For every job posting for a bachelor's degree recipient in a non-STEM field, there were 2.5 entry-level job postings for a bachelor's degree recipient in a STEM field.

Much of the STEM curriculum is aimed toward

attracting underrepresented populations. Female students, for example, are significantly less likely to pursue a college major or career. Though this is nothing new, the gap is increasing at a significant rate. Male students are also more likely to pursue engineering and technology fields, while female students prefer science fields, like biology, chemistry, and marine biology. Overall, male students are three times more likely to be interested in pursuing a STEM career, the STEMconnect report said.

An advertisement for the 'What If? Just A.S.K.' Tool Kit App. The background is green. At the top, the text 'GET THE WHAT IF? JUST A.S.K. TOOL KIT APP' is written in a bold, black, serif font. Below this, there are three panels. The left panel shows a login screen with fields for 'Username' and 'password', a 'LOGIN' button, and options to 'Login with Facebook' and 'Login with Google'. The middle panel shows a young woman with long dark hair, wearing a white t-shirt with a red logo, sitting on a bed and holding a smartphone. The right panel shows a list of 'TOOLKIT CONTENT' with items like 'What If? Pledge Form', 'A.S.K. Worksheet', 'College Checklist', etc. To the right of the app preview, there is a text box that says 'The new What If? Just A.S.K. Tool Kit is now available. A worth while investment to kick start your career and achieve your goals.' At the bottom right, there are logos for 'GET IT ON Google Play' and 'Download on the App Store'.

A large, diverse group of people in business attire are shown from the chest up, all giving a thumbs-up gesture. They are arranged in several rows, creating a sense of a large crowd. The background is a plain, light color. The overall mood is positive and celebratory.

Teachers and Counselors –  
The best investment  
brokers to help achieve  
maximum return on your  
investment which is YOU

*Author Rodney D. Brooks*

<https://www.whatifjustask.com>

# 8 Teaching teens to volunteer; the importance of community service

Shobha Bhaskar, M.D



Teenagers are not only an extremely valuable resource of energy, good will and creativity, but also the key to our future. In a culture that is so wrapped around ‘wants’ and ‘achievements,’ it is easy for our teenagers to grow up without a sense of gratitude for what they have and empathy for the needs of the less fortunate around them. Volunteering in community service projects and helping others can be very fulfilling, and if you can show your teen how enriching it is from a young age, they’ll start to make an association between helping someone else and their own joy. There are lots of service projects available to teens locally, statewide, nationally and even internationally. Although volunteering can sometimes be a part of high school graduation requirements and meeting scholarship needs, it needs to be instilled in teens as a value that is truly appreciated and pursued with passion.

**How to choose?** Choosing the right service opportunity can influence how your teen interacts with that cause, and makes volunteer commitments, going forward. So give careful consideration to his or her interests and abilities, your interests, logistics of location and time commitment, and even the attitude of the organization staff.

The reach of volunteering can be limited to the school and student body, or it can have a wider reach locally like organizing a blood drive, hosting an awareness event for young kids at the local library, holding a collection of canned goods for the food bank, participating in soup kitchens, or caring for animals at a shelter. It could also be for a national cause like raising awareness about AIDS or helping in areas of natural disasters. But try to choose an activity that accommodates the teen’s interest and time commitment to ensure longevity in participation.

**What to stress:** Make sure you lead by example. Parental participation in volunteering regularly or even occasionally promotes bonding, mutual respect, and deeper conversations on ethical issues. Make sure your teen realizes how his/her time is directly impacting the needy group/ community and discuss possible ideas of how to further the cause. Stress on discipline; committing to a volunteering activity regularly, whether it’s a few hours a week or once a month or just during their summer break, has long term implications for both our teens and our community.

**Benefits of volunteering:** Teen volunteering has been on a steady rise since the 1980s. Research has shown that teens who engage in community service are more responsible with higher self-esteem and resilience. Volunteering helps the teens gain new skills necessary for the job market such as leadership, communication skills, dependability, time management, and decision making. Teens who volunteer perform better at school and also build a stronger resume for college and scholarship applications.

**Some community service ideas for teens:**

**Sports:** Teens could participate in fund-raising

activities or offer to assist on the day of school sports events. Look up the Special Olympics website to check what is scheduled in your area and offer to volunteer. There are a wide range of opportunities that provide a rewarding experience for our young athletes.

**Local hospitals:** For teens interested in healthcare and serving the sick, there are sometimes opportunities to volunteer in local hospitals after some initial medical screening and training.

**Animal lovers:** You could volunteer at a local shelter for homeless animals where you could help with activities such as walking the dogs, cleaning, or feeding the animals.

**Helping senior citizens:** You can participate through school-hosted elderly or hospice programs or contact the local nursing homes directly. Programs such as Meals on Wheels encourage volunteer participation and you could help pack and deliver meals. Just by visiting the elderly who have no family brings them so much comfort. You could also volunteer by bringing gifts during holidays or reading out to them.

Volunteering taps into a teen’s innate desire to be independent, in a productive way. Teenagers are extremely busy bodies with academics, extracurricular activities, sports, and of course their social events! But carving a few hours out of their busy schedules regularly for community service can be therapeutic for them and also better our community on so many levels.



## What If? Just A.S.K. The Magazine

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