

Steps for a Reinvention Initiative **by Leigh Henderson**

Author, *Temping with Tycoons: Lessons from My Leadership Reinvention*

Objective: Develop strategies to leverage your current situation into a rewarding career

1. Be curious and open to growth

Use your workplace as a training room. Become aware of your surroundings. Be ready to learn something new from a colleague—even one that might be much younger or someone at a lower level in the organization.

2. Practice active patience

Waiting for the job you want is frustrating. You feel like giving up. You will need to learn how to practice active patience. You need to be able to hold onto the big picture while going through daily interactions. Be engaged in workplace activities while keeping in mind what you need to do for your forward movement to achieve your goals.

3. Stay resilient and relevant

Those who were in senior jobs might have difficulty reporting to someone less skilled. Such a situation requires resiliency, the ability to be fluid and in the moment rather than thinking about, “I used to...” Learn as much as possible about not just your job but about the workflow processes, different divisions, the company, and competitors.

4. Parallel occupation

Look for a part-time job or an internship in the field you’d like to enter. Or you can volunteer at an organization that is in your field of interest. Teaching at a local community college can transcend the daily humiliation you might feel at a job below your skills and education levels. Your self-esteem can improve while sharing your expertise with an appreciative audience.

5. Stay connected to family

You need a circle of support during these difficult times. Being with family and your family of friends can validate your worth and provide the encouragement you need on your reinvention initiative.