

The purpose of the Flower Exercise is to help you determine what type of environment and work climate is best for you. Your skills should be placed in the center of the flower (these include the skills you identified in the seven success stories exercise). The six petals surrounding the center contain the following information and should be completed in this order:

1. Geography: Besides where you are now, where would you most like to live and work? List as many places as you want, but prioritize them according to your favorites.
2. Interests (Special Knowledge): Finding your interests is as easy as examining yourself. This can be done through interest inventories, or by just noticing the types of activities you enjoy, the types of magazines, books, and newspaper articles you read, your favorite internet sites, what you watch on TV, etc.
3. People Environments: Consider the types of people you like to be around and work with.
4. Values and Goals: What are your values? How do you want to be remembered? What do you want to accomplish? Consider your values and goals, and place the top three of each on petal #4.
5. Working Conditions: We do our best work if we are happy with our working conditions. Think about your past jobs (or experiences if you are planning for your first job) and determine conditions that you disliked as well as those you liked.
6. Salary & Responsibility: Consider the questions: At which level would you like to work (boss, owner, middle management, team member, working alone, etc.)? What salary would you like to make (consider minimum and maximum amounts)?

The information from this exercise could be used as part of your career development portfolio. For more information on *What Color is Your Parachute?* By Richard Nelson Bolles, visit the website at www.jobhuntersbible.com.