

Do's and don'ts to consider for lifelong learning



By Leigh Andrews

21 Jun 2018

"The most valuable asset you'll ever have is your mind and what you put into it." - Brian Tracy. Lifelong learning is just that - constantly investing in your mind and therefore, your life. This #YouthMonth, I share my take on the importance of lifelong learning and why it's critical to future success.



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This is my story about why I love lifelong learning. I completed my official tertiary studies over a decade ago. My study story is probably similar to that of most – suddenly school's coming to an end and you don't really have any idea what you want to study at tertiary level.

This is how that next scary part went for me – how I directed “The Rest of My Life”:

Do what you love

I'd always enjoyed writing, so a journalism degree was the obvious choice. I'd chosen psychology as my second major, though I ended up enjoying the undergrad psychology content so much, I decided to focus on that for my honours year. I passed well and was ready to enter the world of work. But one does not simply study psychology to honours level then start working in the field (sob), so instead, I fell back on my first love – journalism.

As a strong motivator for lifelong learning, it makes sense to pursue something you love. If you work in online marketing, it makes sense to learn more about social media advertising. If you're in sales, it makes sense to learn about the customer purchasing journey. But. It doesn't make sense to spend time and money on something you don't actually enjoy. Choose wisely!



How to choose a career if you have no idea what you want to do

Oxbridge Academy 26 Apr 2018

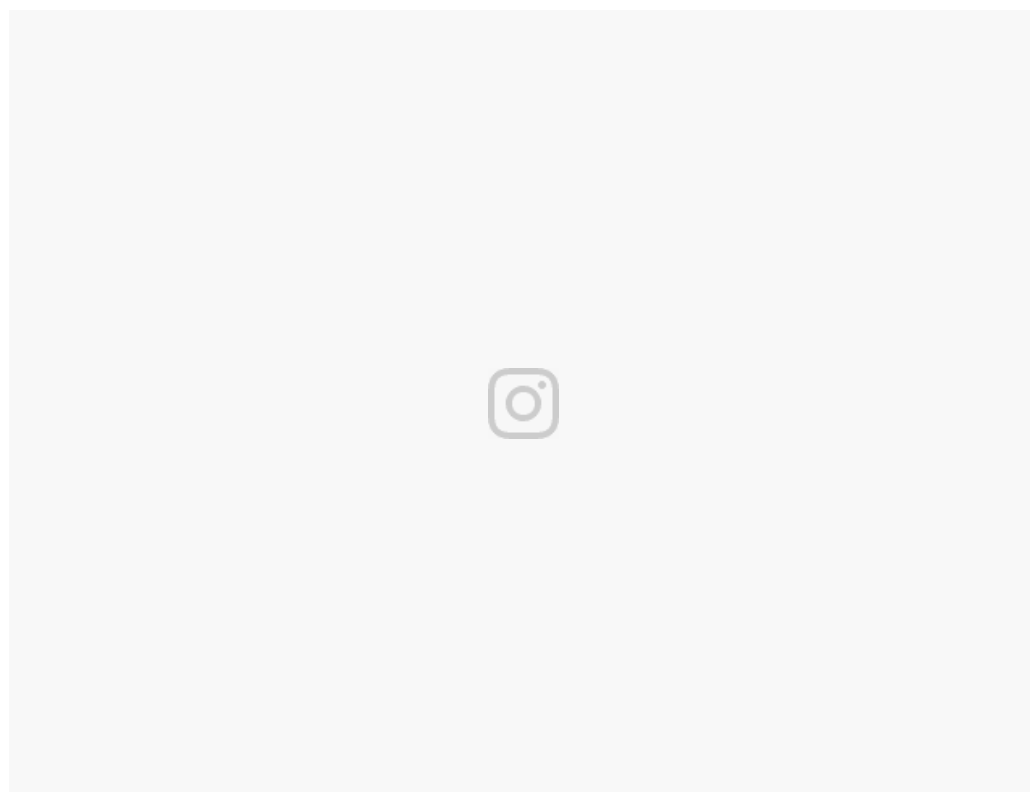


Don't back down from a challenge

I started out in community newspapers, then lifestyle magazines, then hopped into media monitoring and B2B publishing before I switched back to hard news reporting, and found a passion for the immediacy of all things digital. But journalism had changed since then. Today, journalism means you're constantly on the go, adding bits, refining others.

“ You're skimming Google Alerts, scrolling through Facebook feeds for user-generated breaking news, embedding tweets, cropping images, overlaying logos, getting someone else to scan for typos and finally pressing 'publish' – often all in the space of an hour. ”

A few of my favourite sites for staying up to date with current trends and changes in the digital sphere are: [Mashable](#), [Moz](#), [TrendWatching](#), [SmartInsights](#) and [We are Social Media](#).



Snapped in action laughing, learning, brainstorming and workshoping at today's @brandlovecxp potent digital storytelling workshop. coverage on @bizcommunity soon! 💎💎: @johan_brandlove #workworkwork #reporterlife

A post shared by [Leigh Andrews](#) (@ramblinglitchi123) on Mar 16, 2018 at 4:43am PDT

manageable. The work landscape is always evolving and it will continue to do so. What happens when you commit to staying up to speed – in your career and your passions – is that you evolve and move with the times.



#FairnessFirst: SheSays launches in Cape Town

Leigh Andrews 23 Apr 2018



This gives you agility and opens more opportunities than if you were “standing still,” so to speak.

Do learn everything you can

Much of that on-the-job training is based on just one aspect of a computer program, but I didn't want to keep asking 'the experts' how to do other bits and pieces. I wanted to know it all. And so I decided to upskill myself.

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"Because I'm happy!" 💎💎 It's #internationalhappinesday! I took the plunge and completed the @42courses #happinessresearchinstitute online #happiness #masterclass. Will be sharing my learnings on @bizcommunity soon! 💎💎💎💎

A post shared by Leigh Andrews (@ramblinglitchi123) on Mar 19, 2018 at 11:59pm PDT

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Do consider your options

I did online short courses through a number of institutions on those cutting-edge skills I need to do the job better – advanced sub-editing, mastering more than just cropping in Photoshop, the overly technical aspects of SEO, digital marketing, social media marketing, principles of human-centred design to love the life you live (the last one completed over a weekend) – and there will doubtless be more to come, as technological change demands a change in the way we work, which doesn't always come naturally.

Education is no longer limited to a students-in-a-classroom approach. Thanks to the internet and various formats available, you can educate yourself in many different ways: workshops, online courses, masterclasses and talks by trailblazers.



Social storytelling 101: Stop and sharpen your marketing axe

Leigh Andrews 24 May 2018



The options are there. Don't limit yourself.

Do find new ways to think (creatively)

Thinking back over my career so far, it's the small things I've learned along the way that have had the biggest impact.

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About to go @boscitea 'Bos' with the final edition of @redandyellowed's #digitalmarketingLIVE - some will say they saved the best for last, as we are hearing the #secretstory behind @yuppiechef from @andrewctn himself. 💎💎 Going to miss seeing my @redandyellowed fam weekly, sob @h_bomb and @shaeleighctphotography! #bethesponge

A post shared by Leigh Andrews (@ramblinglitchi123) on Jan 25, 2018 at 5:38am PST

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aside an evening or a weekend and none a skill, pass a test online, add a new certificate to the physical wall or proof of knowledge in our study.

“ Formal lectures may have set me up for the real-world, but nothing beats being a sponge and learning newways to be better at what you do. ”

Red & Yellow is widely known for the framed picture that says “I am a sponge” which hangs in the entrance of the Cape Town campus. It is the quintessential phrase that speaks to lifelong learning.



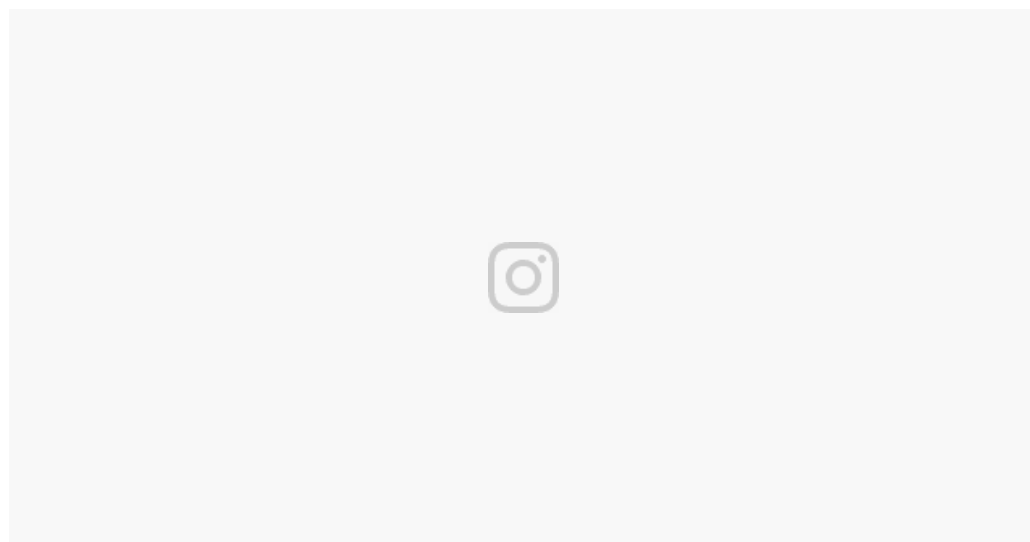
#RYExecEd: Taking the crisis out of social media communications

Leigh Andrews 3 Aug 2017



And as you learn, you teach others. I've done this throughout my career by writing about what I've gleaned from each learning experience, and also by taking the plunge and presenting a webinar.

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#ICYMI: It's all happening! 11am SAST, this Friday, 26 Jan. Listen in to my @meltwater_africa #webinar, all about winning the war on #PR, at your internet-connected device. Attendance is free, just click on the link in my bio to register! @meltwater

A post shared by Leigh Andrews (@ramblinglitchi123) on Jan 24, 2018 at 3:43am PST

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y is it any different when it comes to your knowledge and skills base. The more you learn, the more you know. The more you know, the more you grow. And so it goes. Lifelong learning is not a habit to entrench, it's a means of prolonging life, boosting your career success and showing you creative ways to think that you've not thought of before.

Albert Einstein himself said: “*Intellectual growth should commence at birth and cease only at death.*” So hopefully, I have a long way to go.

Read more links

I won't regurgitate others' lists for you, as you can Google them yourself – but here are a few starters to motivate you and fire that passion:

- [10 ways lifelong learning will benefit your personal success](#)
- [5 key benefits of lifelong learning](#)
- [What we learn about lifelong learning from children](#)

**Originally commissioned by [Red & Yellow school](#), visit their [Press Office](#) for the latest updates!*

ABOUT LEIGH ANDREWS

Leigh Andrews AKA the #MilkshakeQueen, is former Editor-in-Chief: Marketing & Media at Bizcommunity.com, with a passion for issues of diversity, inclusion and equality, and of course, gourmet food and drinks! She can be reached on Twitter at @Leigh_Andrews.

- #Loeries2020: Behavioural economics as creativity, but not as we know it... - 24 Nov 2020
- #D2020: Ignite your inner activist - representation through illustration - 27 Feb 2020
- #D2020: How Sho Madjozi brought traditional Tsonga *xibelani* into 2020 - 27 Feb 2020
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