



August 2017

### *Discovery vs. Learning: Same concept yet one is a lot more fun!*

When we think about the word *learning*, many of us think about school. Thoughts about school often trigger emotions like stress, compliance, uncertainty and judgment. The good news - with a little bit of adjustment in thinking, learning can be a lot of fun, particularly when it comes to self-employment.

Self-employment is all about discovery. Like learning, discovery represents an opportunity to grow beyond what you currently know and do. Unlike learning, however, emotions triggered are more like adventure, expand and exciting. Discovering is fun where learning can be a chore.

Both learning and discovery require a process. However, with discovery the process is facilitative versus directive (BIG difference). Self-employment requires undertaking a real-world adventure where, through trial and error, you build upon what you love to do in ways that add value for others and generate income. Because you're building upon what you're good and enjoy, there are also quality of life benefits to be had.

Here are 4 easy ways to discover and have fun when launching a self-employment business:

1. **Find a Mentor:** Building upon your ideas and skills is a lot more fun and effective when learning from someone who has already "been there, done that!" In self-employment, mentors are available through programs like [SCORE](#) Counselors to America's Small Businesses, [Small Business Development Centers](#) and [Women's Business Centers](#). For Veterans, there are [Veterans Business Outreach Centers](#).
2. **Google It:** Want to find something out fast about how to start or grow your self-employment business? Do a Google search. There are forums, peer-to-peer groups, no-cost courses, You Tube videos, trade associations, blogs, LinkedIn Groups and a lot more where you can get just the right information when you need it.
3. **Experiment:** With discovery, there is no judgment. You will not be graded, scored, assessed, tested or made to feel sub-optimal in any way. Through experimenting you simply learn what works and what doesn't. From there, you experiment again. This time, with even more knowledge and skills than the first time – and better outcomes!
4. **Be Creative:** While there is value in doing things the way they've always been done, such as accounting and tax reporting, there is also a lot of leeway for creating new ways to do things and new ideas when self-employed – particularly today with the growth of the Internet, social media, outsourcing, access to virtual offices, mobile apps and a whole host of other ways to productively run a business. A search for Freelance platforms is also a great way to get a self-employment gig!

So, what would you like to discover today where you can learn, earn and have more fun?

For more information, visit: <http://www.buzvr.org/>

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