Why We Work

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For the overwhelming majority of people, work falls short—very short. The question is: why?

Why We Work

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A TED ORIGINAL
Why People Work

- Engagement
- Challenge
- Autonomy
- Mastery
- Social engagement
- Meaning
“It is in the inherent interest of every man to live as much at his ease as he can; and if his emoluments are to be precisely the same whether he does or does not perform some very laborious duty, to perform it in as careless and slovenly a manner that authority will permit.”

—Adam Smith (1776)
“The man whose life is spent in a few simple operations...has no occasion to exert his understanding, or to exercise his invention in finding out expedients for difficulties which never occur. He naturally loses, therefore, the habit of such exertion and generally becomes as stupid and ignorant as it is possible for a human creature to be.”

—Adam Smith (1776)
JOBS LOST, JOBS GAINED: WORKFORCE TRANSITIONS IN A TIME OF AUTOMATION

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The Three Faces of Work

- Hands
- Head
- Heart