

CREATE YOUR EXIT STATEMENT OR WHY ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A JOB?

Your Exit Statement answers the question, “Why are you looking for a job?”

A vital part of your communications strategy is the “Exit Statement”. This is the opportunity to answer, “Why are you leaving XYZ Company?” or “Why are you in the job market?” Keep your statement very short and simple. *You will not want to discuss personality conflicts, disagreement with management or speak negatively about the company.* Below are some acceptable reasons for leaving your present position:

Career growth: You can easily say that you are looking for a change in role and wanted more growth, or even that your position was getting stagnant. This might be an acceptable reason for quitting your job, but this by no means gives you leeway to criticize your job.

Your career path: One reason is basic dissatisfaction with your career. Remember that it is not about the particular company or the department, but your career on the whole. This reason holds true if you have a rich career profile and are currently applying for a job in a new profession.

Looking for challenges: One of the most common and simple reasons is that your job was at a standstill, and you wished to seek newer avenues and greater challenges.

Restructuring: Another common reason is company restructuring. When a company restructures, it can lay off a number of employees. Therefore, even if you have not been directly told to go, nobody would blame you if you are looking for avenues because your colleagues or some other department has been laid off.

Relocation: Relocation could be a reason that a seeker is looking for another job.

Enhanced Education: Another reason that can be provided is enhancement of abilities and education. If you have recently acquired a degree and have decided to utilize your education to enhance your professional profile, this would be a good reason to give for this question.

Remember that you cannot lie about the reason why you quit your job. In this era of references and cross references, finding out the real reason why you quit your job is as simple as making a telephone call.

As you are preparing your Exit Statement, think about mentioning something positive about your experience – the training, variety of opportunities, what you learned, etc.

Finally, you want to focus on the positive AND the future: I am looking for an opportunity in _____ and am excited to explore a variety of options.