Book

He says finding your Element is based off of three principles:

1. Everyone is unique, no two beings on earth are exactly the same, and we all have our own interests, aptitudes, hobbies, likes and dislikes. We are unique biologically (nature) and environmentally (nurture)
2. “You create your own life”, Carl Jung “I am not what has happened to me, I am what I choose to become”. Human beings are naturally creative, they shape culture, Imagination is said to be the act of creating something that is not present to our senses. What is creativity? Imagination is integral to creativity, creativity can be seen as “applied imagination”. Your world is created by what you choose (and choose not) to do.
3. “Life is organic”. Nobody, no matter what age, can make an accurate guess as to what their life will be like in 5 or 10 years. (Talk about TED study that showed how people’s lives changed more than they thought they would). Life is not a step by step process, there is no list of what you must or must not do. Each step you make can be in any direction, and each direction you choose is not necessarily good nor bad. These directional decisions are based off ones one’s personal interests and ambitions. Since no two persons’ interests are identical, no two human lives will be the same.

Education systems are not build off of these principles, education is based off of the assumption that life is linear. (Mention TED video “How education kills creativity”) (could grab video notes off of desktop from Economics class) (could also talk about steve jobs speech here, just break off talking about his speech and then come back the the main points, highlight them in steves life, and then talk about actually finding your element – in paragraph below) Book states that there is no correlation between the type of degree one has and how successful one is later in life.

To find your element you must first focus on what you’re good at (aptitudes, natural talents). These are different from abilities. Aptitudes are the raw talents that people possess i.e. easily understand math concepts, or having a good visual sense. Abilities is something that requires education, work, and experience, and must be practiced in order to be obtained. Examples of abilities are a mathematician, artist, and a cryptographer. (Aptitudes is more the nature side, while abilities is more the nurture side). By combining aptitudes with abilities you can find a passion that will drive you for the rest of your life.

Ken Robinson video:

* Huge interest in education, everywhere
* We prepare students for the far future, yet we don’t know what that’s going to look like
* We diminish children’s talents from the get-go.
* Creativity should be as important as literacy
* Children aren’t always frightened of being wrong, “if you’re not prepared to be wrong, you will never come up with anything original”
* We’re running education systems where being wrong is the worst thing you can do
* People are not born into creativity, they are born (educated) out of it
* Every education system in the world has the same education hierarchy, mathematics and languages at the top, then humanities, then art at the bottom.
* Education is the way it is because it had to meet the needs of industrialism in the 19th century, but today’s needs are different.
* Many highly creative and skilled people think that they are not intelligent or useful, because what they are good at isn’t valued
* Education inflation, more education means less value in education
* We think about the work visually, in sound, kinesthetically, abstract, movement, etc.
* Need to rethink the entire education structure

Steve Jobs commencement speech, 2005:

Steve dropped out of college. He sacrificed a dorm room, and decent meals. He noted that “… it was one of the best decisions I ever made.” Free of the limitations of graduation requirements, Steve took the classes which he found interest in.

This led to Steve creating as well as being fired from his own company, Apple. This was an open door for Steve Jobs. Being let go allowed him to focus creatively, and once again be free. He started two companies, one of which is the most successful animation studio in the world, Pixar.

Steve Job’s life was very organic, just mine and yours. In an organic life one thing leads to another, similar to a chain reaction that breaks off in every direction. This organic path shows heavy evidence of Steve’s Element, his passion, and his love.

Scott Dinsmore Video 2012:

Around 80% of people don’t actually enjoy what they do.

Whats the difference between people who do work that inspires them, and those that just get through the day. When asked why people are in the position they are in, they say that “it’s because somebody told me I’m supposed to”.

3 Things that these passionate people have in common

1. Becoming a self-expert, you need to know what you’re looking for in order to find it. Need to find unique strengths
2. One of the biggest differences between where you are today and where you want to be is the type of people that you surround yourself with (1898 Norman Triplet did an experiment with cyclist, they were timed to go around the track in a group and also alone, always went faster in a group) Environment means a lot