



Stanford eCorner

Missing Breakout Moments

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Video URL: <http://ecorner.stanford.edu/videos/2908/Missing-Breakout-Moments>

LinkedIn Co-Founder Reid Hoffman explains it's important to be aware that while each decision you make may have benefits, you may also be missing out on breakout opportunities somewhere else.



Transcript

I figured out by month four at Oxford that I didn't want to be an academic. Now there is a lot of good reasons that I finished my degree. I signed up for it, I - you complete what you start, these sorts of things. But one of the things I only realized years later is that if I had said okay, this is what I want to do and I'm going to take the lumps of saying, this isn't it, that's it, I'm moving back now, I'm starting to do that. I'd have been here at a time where the internet was being formulated from moving from the academic confines into the rest of the world as opposed to kind of catching up when AOL and Product G and eWorld were kind of big things, but the internet was starting. And what it points out is frequently one of the very big risks is the risk that you don't know that you're taking, right. It is in fact one of the ones that can be serious and so instead of me saying well, I will finish the degree and then I will in two years I'll go figure out what it is, well, that means that you're not in that game and you may lose key breakout opportunities for playing that game. And so that was actually one of the risks that I most substantially took. Now again, no complaints. But it's illustrative in terms of thinking about how you think through, what does this pattern of activity mean for your own career?