

10 Ways to Reach Your Animation Dream Job Faster



#1 Animate Everyday

Every person who achieves masterful success in anything has 1 habit in common. That's the habit of practicing their craft EVERY DAY. No matter the results. In time, if you do nothing else but this, all your obstacles with the art will fall a way.

- ☐ YES, I Will Start This Tomorrow and Make My Dream Job Happen
- ☐ NO Thanks. My life's just not worth achieving my dreams.

#2 Animate Short Clips Focusing on 1 Fundamental At A Time

Not all the time you spend animating has to take all day. Not every shot has to be a demo reel piece. Sometimes it's best to focus on 1 area you're struggling with in a simple exercise that only makes sense to you. My understand of how the spine should

be animated greatly improved by hiding everything but the torso of a character and moving him around for 50 frames.

- ☐ YES, I Use This Technique to get over my hurdles faster!
- ☐ NO thanks I'll just spend months on 1 animation at a time struggling much longer.

#3 Give Feedback to 3 People a Day

Create the habit of giving feedback to other animators daily without expecting anything in return. This will help your career in several ways. You'll get stronger eyes for improving your own art by looking for flaws in others. You'll completely prepare yourself for a studio environment with dailies. And most importantly, you'll make friendships that will support you more than you could have imagined. From receiving critiques in return to opening the door to future jobs- your buddies will always have your back. Join a [Rusty Animator's FB Group and be part of an animation mastermind](#), or a join school, or a competition to get started.

- ☐ YES, I will start helping others tomorrow with useful critiques because it's a win-win for us all and it will make an animated life worth living.
- ☐ NO I can do it all solo and I don't like helping fellow artists.

#4 Join Competitions

Competitions can cultivate a bunch of great habits for you all at once. With a place like [11SecondClub.com](#) you get access to a community of artists to give feedback to, monthly sound clips to plan around, a schedule to follow, and free critiques from Pros. Especially if you win, this is a unique way to get your name out there and land a job.

- ☐ YES, I will take part in competitions to back up the great habits I'm building.
- ☐ NO thanks I dont want to compare my work to others and put myself on the spot

#5 Surround Yourself Weekly with Animators Better Than You

Back at Animation Mentor, I can easily say this is responsible for the success I've had throughout my career. Putting other people around you, especially ones who are

better, reinforces great habits and allows you conquer obstacles FAR FAR quicker. An easy way to do this is through school. Your classmates have tons of common ground, with the same assignments and challenges. But if you're not in school, like mentioned above, competitions and [Facebook groups](#) are another way to pull it off.

- ❑ YES, I Will Start This Tomorrow and Make My Dream Job Happen
- ❑ NO Thanks My Lifes Just Not Worth the Effort

#6 Seek Out Negative Painful Feedback

In a perfect world everyone would be amazed by our artwork, laying down on all fours and bowing like they are before the all mighty Zeus. But we aren't. And we make a lot of crap - especially starting out. Seek out feedback from those who see you as capable of more and try to push you to god like status. Of course, it has to be helpful negative feedback. Not - "YOU SUCK"

- ❑ YES, I will always look for helpful negative feedback that takes me to the next level because my dream job is worth it
- ❑ NO thanks I'm already better than Milt Kahl and the rest of Disney. My art is always flawless.

#7 PLAN, PLAN, PLAN, Your Awesome Shots

When you tackle a new shot that will showcase the best of your abilities plan like crazy. Get so enthused about the planning that you can imagine every detail and laugh just thinking about it. Recite your lip-syncs from memory. Shoot Reference for days exploring all kinds of ideas. Draw and mind map like a 5-year-old discovering paint for the first time. All of this will pay off and make your new Awesome shot actually AWESOME. To the audience all the honest effort comes right through. They'll feel it. You'll also have more fun.

- ❑ YES, every shot that I want to be awesome will be planned in thorough earnest detail to ensure I dazzle people with my demo reel.
- ❑ NO thanks I'd rather waste my time with 20 random attempts at creating crap.

#8 Analyze Where Your Time Goes and Cut Distractions

Are you a TV Junkie? A video game addict? A Neurotic Facebook feed swiper? Get out a note pad and guess how many hours each day you spend doing wasteful distractions. In 6 months when your accepting a job as an Animator you'll be glad you did.

By taking note of where my time is spent and cutting my distractions - I will make_____ hours of productive animating time each week. I will devote that time to achieving my dream job faster!

#9 Schedule Your Animating Far in Advance

With distractions cut and time found, write down a week in advance when the best time to Animate each day is.

- ☐ YES, I just scheduled out my next week and I can already taste the awesomeness that is my future demo reel!
- ☐ NO thanks I want to leave it all up in the air, so I can pussyfoot around later

#10 Make It Painful and Costly Not to Animate for The Day - Make it Mandatory

This one may seem strange. But you are your own worst enemy and can you recall the last time you purposely stuck your hand onto a hot pan? No?! Me neither. Pain sucks we avoid it. So, make it painful to not animate. Make a bet with 3 of your best friends to **give them each 50 bucks OR Do A Ridiculous Dare** - if you don't animate daily. The best time to do this is NOW when you're expecting the best of yourself.

List of 3 Friends Who Will Hold Me Accountable and Publicly Shame Me If I Don't Animate

1 -

2 -

3 -

- ☐ I will tell these people at _____time today.