

# Collaborations and Affiliations

By Gail McMeekin

Collaborations and Affiliations

Gail McMeekin  
liz@creativesuccess.com

Creative Success <http://www.virtualadminksc.com>

Selecting the right colleagues and affiliates is a key success strategy for any career path. Whether you work for an organization or have created your own, the people with whom you partner impact your results as well as your fulfillment and reputation. Creativity also thrives in relationships with complementary skills nurtured by mutual respect. Successful partnerships and alliances depend on complete honesty, self-assessment and awareness, open communication, and a dedication to resolve conflicts on the part of all participants.

Over the course of my years as a career coach, I have cautioned many clients against taking ill-suited jobs or joining forces with partners where there may be a mismatch. I have seen a pattern with many female entrepreneurs where two insecure women team up together with the same weaknesses and a shaky business plan. Disaster usually strikes and may even end in the courtroom. If you are considering doing contract work or becoming an employee of an organization, do your research. If the company jerks you around in the hiring process or your intuition tells you that it's all too "perfect", beware. You want to be connected to the best people, products, and services. Desperation and the impulse "to just get it done" reap dangerous liaisons. As a business owner, there are huge differences between collaborations and official partnerships. You can fulfill your needs for collaboration with a variety of networks, team projects, success teams, and other modalities. You don't have to make an alliance official unless you have road-tested it and it makes sense legally and professionally.

So if you have the "urge to merge", ask yourself these key questions:

- 1) Are you an introvert or an extrovert? How much alone time versus group time suits you?
- 2) What is your relationship pattern? Do have a string of



(c)2003 Gail McMeekin

You're welcome to "reprint" this article online as long as it remains complete and unaltered (including the resource box at the end), and you send me a copy or link to your reprint at <mailto:wendy@wendyweiss.com>

[Get-Articles.com : 1000's of reprintable business and internet marketing-related articles.](#)

[Submit your article for reprint.](#)