

# Personal Mission Statement

**Creating a Personal Mission Statement** is one of the most powerful and significant things you can do to take leadership in your life. This Personal Mission Statement will help you identify...

- Who you want to be;
- What you want to do;
- To what and to whom you want to devote your life;
- The principles to which you want to anchor your life; and
- The legacy you want to leave.

A few samples of **Mission Statements** include:

I see each day as a clean slate, a fresh chance to write a new script and seize new opportunities. I value life's experiences and seek to learn and grow from each one. In my daily endeavors, I avoid neither risk nor responsibility; nor do I fear failure, only lost opportunity.

I am a responsible spouse and parent; I give priority to these roles. I value differences and view them as strengths. I seek to build complementary win-win relationships with family, friends, and business associates. To keep these relationships healthy and to maintain a high level of trust, I make daily "deposits" in the "emotional bank accounts" of others.

I value my personal freedom of choice and my rights to exercise that freedom. I am more a product of my decisions than conditions. I do not allow present circumstances or past conditioning to determine my responses to the challenges I face. I choose to focus on the positive, to work within my circle of influence – to act directly on things I can do something about – and thereby reduce my circle of concern.

In short, a **Personal Mission Statement** is a **short, powerful, highly subjective manifesto** – usually 50 – 100 words – that make clear all the goals and decisions on which your future will be based. Like a compass, your Personal Mission Statement is a strong source of guidance amid the cross-currents of your life. To begin, write out a response to each of the following questions.

- What do you feel are your greatest strengths? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- What do you enjoy doing? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- What character traits do you most admire in others? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- What have been the happiest moments in your life, and why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- What excites you (and angers you) about the world, and how can you put those feelings to use?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- When you look at your life, what activities do you consider of the greatest worth? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- If you had unlimited time and resources, what would you choose to do? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- When you daydream, what sort of work do you see yourself doing? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- What inspires you to be a better person? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- What three individuals made the greatest impact on your life? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

When you've answered all the questions, spend a few days **drafting a 50 to 100 word statement** that has three themes – What is my life about, what do I stand for, and what action will I take to live my life purposefully? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Evaluate your mission statement** using the following questions and rewrite if necessary:

- Do I feel this represents the best that is within me? \_\_\_\_\_  
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- During my best moments, do I feel good about what this represents? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Do I feel direction, purpose, challenge, and motivation when I review this statement? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Am I aware of the strategies and skills that will help me accomplish what I have written? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- What do I need to start doing now to be where I want to be tomorrow? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Does this statement inspire me? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_