The Great Discovery™

Writing a Personal Mission Statement

Based on Teen Mission Statement Builder: http://www.franklincovey.com/cgi-bin/teens/teens-msb/part01/index.html and Sean Covey’s book Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens p. 86-91. All graphics are copyrighted and used with permission from FranklinCovey. All rights reserved. Modified and revised by R. Zogby, certified 7 Habits instructor, Calkins Road Middle School, 2006.
Admirable Qualities

accepting  dependable  humble  persevering  spellbinding
active  dependent  humorous  persistent  stable
adaptable  determined  independent  pleasant  strong
adventurous  discreet  industrious  powerful  studious
agile  eager  intellectual  quiet  stylish
alert  easy-going  kind  radical  sympathetic
determined  educated  liberal  refined  tactful
assertive  evaluation  loving  reliable  talented
athletic  enthusiastic  logical  religious  thankful
balanced  elegant  lively  resourceful  thoughtful
brilliant  exuberant  loving  reserved  resourceful
calm  fair  merry  respectfu1  self-behaved
careful  faithful  meticulous  sensitive  shy
cautious  famous  modest  selfless  shy
charming  flexible  moral  sensible  silly
daring  forgiving  musical  sensitive  sincere
cheerful  friendly  neat  sentimental  social
clever  funny  open-minded  senitative  sociable
committed  genuine  optimistic  serious  soft-spoken
talented  gifted  orderly  self-reliant  sophisticated
competitive  giving  organized  self-reliant  sorry
cooperative  happy  outgoing  sensible  spellbinding
courageous  healthy  outspoken  sensitive  strong
creative  helpful  passionate  sentimental  study
daring  honest  peaceful  sentimental  taught
decent  hospitable  pensive  self-reliant  substitute

Talents

accepting others  humorous  sharing  speaking
artistic  listening  singing  thinking ahead
athletic  making things happen  mechanical  trivia
building things  musical  working well with children
cooking  predicting  working well with people
creative thinking  sensing needs  writing
dancing
decision-making
A *personal mission statement* is a brief description of what you want to focus on, what you want to accomplish and who you want to become in a particular area of your life over the next one to four years. It is a way to focus your energy, actions, behaviors and decisions towards the things that are most important to you.

**Task:** To write a 10-15 sentence personal mission

**Audience:** Your classmates

**Purpose:** To help you focus on your personal goals as a student, a teenager and as an individual

**The Great Discovery™**

(A Mission Statement Pre-writing Activity)

This activity will help you to create your own Personal Mission Statement.™ Taking your time to seriously consider your answers to the following questions will help you to define your values, principles, and what matters most to you in your life.

**What Is Character?**

The qualities that you admire about people in your life are various aspects of their “character.” It is what distinguishes them as who they are.

You have the opportunity to develop your own character or qualities to be as admirable as is the character of the people you admire. As you work through these mission-building exercises, carefully consider your own character and your vision for your life, and begin formulating a plan that will start moving you in the direction you want to go.

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Discovering Yourself Through Others
Consider the Life of Someone Else

Think of a person who made a positive difference in your life. This individual can be anyone--perhaps a parent, a teacher, a historical figure, a friend, a leader, or a relative. These people may or may not be aware of their influence on you.

What 5 qualities does that person have that you would like to develop? (See list of qualities attached)

_________________________________________  ______________________________________  __________________________
                                                                                                        
_________________________________________  ______________________________________

20 Years From Now...

Imagine 20 years from now--you are surrounded by the most important people in your life. Who are they and what are you doing?

______________________________________________________________________
                                                                                                        
______________________________________________________________________
                                                                                                        
______________________________________________________________________
                                                                                                        
What Do You Value?

If a steel beam (6 inches wide) were placed across two skyscrapers, for what would you be willing to cross? Lots of money? Your pet? Your brother? Fame? Your best friend? Your parents? Think carefully and explain your choice.

______________________________________________________________________
                                                                                                        
______________________________________________________________________
                                                                                                        
______________________________________________________________________

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What Interests You?

If you could spend one day in a great library studying anything you wanted, what would you study? (You may choose as many or as few as you want).

__________________________________  __________________________________
__________________________________  __________________________________

What Do You Love to Do?

List 5 things you love to do. It could be singing, dancing, drawing, reading, running, daydreaming ... anything you absolutely love to do! You may write as many or as few as you’d like.

__________________  ____________________  ____________________

What Inspires You?

Describe a time when you were deeply inspired:

____________________________________________________
___________________________________________________
___________________________________________________

Think in Terms of Relationships

Another way to think about your life is in terms of the people who are important to you. Identify three people you consider to be significant in your life, perhaps a parent, a brother or sister, or a friend...

__________________  ____________________  ____________________

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Project Yourself Forward In Time

Five years from now, your local paper does a story about you, and they want to interview the people you mentioned as significant in your life. What would you want them to say about you?

Write 3 words he or she would use to describe you.

______________says I’m:

_____________  ______________

_____________  ______________

What Represents You?

Think of something that represents you ... a rose, a song, an animal, whatever. Why does it represent you?

__________________________________________________

__________________________________________________

Who Do You Admire?

If you could spend an hour with any person who ever lived, who would that be? Why that person? What would you ask?

__________________________________________________

__________________________________________________

__________________________________________________
Consider Your Strengths and Talents

Everyone has one or more talents. Consider your strengths and talents--those that others recognize in you, as well as any strengths that others may not see.

Write up to six words that represent your personal strengths or talents. Here are some suggestions, but feel free to use your own:

- Accepting others
- Artistic
- Athletic
- Building things
- Cooking
- Dancing
- Decision-making
- Humorous
- Listening
- Making things happen
- Mechanical
- Memorizing
- Music
- Predicting
- Sensing needs
- Sharing
- Speaking
- Thinking ahead
- Trivia
- Writing
- Working well with people
- Working well with children
- Creative thinking

Talent 1: ___________________  Talent 4: ___________________
Talent 2: ___________________  Talent 5: ___________________
Talent 3: ___________________

Your Personal Mission Statement

The information you’ve just provided is ready to compile into a first draft of your mission statement. Remember, this is only a rough draft. Take time to review and personalize it even more. Remove, rephrase, and add thoughts or ideas with particular meaning to you. Make it inspirational! Continually work to detect and refine your mission.

Please take your time. This is not a race.
Ideas to Get You Started with Your Rough Draft

Here are some sample personal mission statement sentence templates to get you started. You may use these templates as seeds to get your creative juices flowing.

Feel free to combine these sentences in any way to carve your own unique personal mission statement.

"In order to ... [what you want to achieve, do or become]..., so that [reasons why it is important]. I will do this by ... [specific behaviors or actions you can use to get there]."

"I value ... [choose one to three values because ... [reasons why these values are important to you]. Accordingly, I will ... [what you can do to live by these values]."

"To develop and cultivate the qualities of ... [two to three values/character traits that I admire in ... [an influential person in your life]..., so that ... [why you want to develop these qualities]]."

"To live each day with ... [choose one to three values or principles]... so that ... [what living by these values will give you]. I will do this by ... [specific behaviors you will use to live by these values]."

"To appreciate and enjoy ... [things you want to appreciate and enjoy more] by ... [what you can do to appreciate/enjoy these things]."

"To treasure above all else ... [most important things to you] by... [what you can do to live your priorities]."

"To be known by ... [an important person/group]... as someone who is ... [qualities you want to have]. by ... [some other person/group]... as someone who is ... [other qualities]...; ..."

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