

Personal Mission Statement

"It takes courage to grow up and turn out to be who you really are."

—e.e. cummings

You can use your knowledge about yourself to help define your personal and career goals. The more you know about yourself, the more successful you will be in defining goals within the framework of your own values.

Take the time to complete the personal mission statement. Use the first worksheet as a prewriting tool to help you brainstorm your various ideas. Next, write your statements, expressing your ideas in sentence/paragraph form on the My Personal Mission Statement Worksheet.

You may not know "what you want to be," but you should begin thinking about "the kind of person you want to be." Revisit your personal mission comments from time to time, and update information as necessary.

Writing a personal mission statement

Prewriting, brainstorming: Asking yourself about you

Who I Am

(Roles like student, daughter, brother; your personality—serious, social, giving, quiet, fair, helpful, open-minded, etc.)

My Strengths and Talents

(A leader, creative, intelligent, hard-working, artistic, athletic, peacemaker, good communicator, team player, enthusiastic, etc.)

My Weaknesses

(Fearful/timid, a procrastinator, insecure, narrow-minded, disorganized, constantly late, lose temper easily, etc.)

My Values

(Excellence, justice, service, ethical, religious, honesty, personal growth, etc.)

What I Hope to Become in Life

(Career path, dependable, forgiving, loyal, dedicated to..., courageous, principle-centered, balanced, happy, monetarily successful, secure, healthy, etc.)

Specific Goals

(**Short term:** academic commitment, accept responsibilities, read more, take an "outside school" class or instruction in your area of interest, community service, better diet, more sleep, more exercise, spend more time with family, etc. **Long term:** go to college or vocational school, pursue a specific career, improve "weaknesses," develop talents, etc.)

Steps Necessary to Reach My Goals

(Seek help in a specific subject; go to library once a week to check out a book of interest; study at least "x" number of hours a night regardless of homework; take an outside class on arts, sports, or computers, etc.)