

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. Drawing on the data and insights you developed from the other Career Boot Camp exercises, this Personal Mission Statement will help you identify ...

- a) who you want to be
- b) what you want to do
- c) to what and to whom you want to devote your life
- d) the principles to which you want to anchor your life
- e) the legacy you want to leave.

In short, a Personal Mission Statement is a short, powerful, highly subjective manifesto - usually 50-to-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 detailed response to each of the following questions.

1. What do you feel are your greatest strengths?

2. What strengths have been noticed by others who know you well?

3. What do you deeply enjoy doing?

4. What character traits do you most admire in others?

5. What three individuals made the greatest positive impact on your life?

6. What have been the happiest moments in your life, and why?

7. What excites you (and angers you) about the world, and how can you put those feelings to use?

8. If you had unlimited time and resources, what would you choose to do?

9. When you daydream, what sort of work do you see yourself doing?

10. When you look at your work life thus far, what activities do you consider of greatest worth?

11. When you look at your personal life, what activities do you consider of the greatest worth?

12. What talents do you have that no one really knows about?

13. What are the most important roles you have now, or wish to have?

14. What goals do you have for each of the above-mentioned roles?

15. What results are you currently getting in your life that you like?

16. What results are you currently getting that you don't like?

17. What you really prefer to be and to do in life?

18. As a result of your having lived, three things have changed in the world. What are they?

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? After completing this exercise, you may wish to work with a law career expert. Visit our Career Consultant Locator for a counselor near you.

* For more on personal mission statements, read Appendix A in Stephen Covey's *First Things First*.