

Writing a Personal Mission Statement

While there is no unique format or formula for creating your personal mission statement, the following guidelines may be helpful:

- Keep it simple, clear and brief. The best mission statements tend to be 3 to 5 sentences long.
- Your mission statement should touch upon what you want to focus on and who you want to become as a person (character) in this part of your life. Think about specific actions, behaviors, habits and qualities that would have a significant positive impact in this part of your life over the next one to three years.
- Make sure your mission statement is positive. Instead of saying what you don't want to do or don't want to be, say what you do want to do or become. Find the positive alternatives to any negative statements.
- Include positive behaviors, character traits and values that you consider particularly important and want to develop further.
- Think about how your actions, habits, behavior and character traits in this area affect the important relationships in your life.
- Create a mission statement that will guide you in your day-to-day actions and decisions. Make it a part of your everyday life.
- Think about how your mission affects the other areas of your life. Is it consistent with your other personal mission statements? Will it conflict with or contradict something else? Is it balanced?
- Make it emotional. Including an emotional payoff in your mission statement infuses it with passion and will make it even more compelling, inspiring and energizing.

Remember that your mission statement is not cast in stone. It will continue to change and evolve as you gain insights about yourself and what you want out of each part of your life.

Personal Mission Statement Sentence Templates

Here are some sample personal mission statement sentence templates to get you started (check out the [values list](#) for ideas on possible values you could use). Use these templates as seeds to get your creative juices flowing.

"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]...; ..."

Feel free to combine these sentences in any way to carve your own unique personal mission statement. Here is a part of a potential mission statement for the health & fitness area using the first sentence template:

"To be healthy, fit and energetic so that I can enjoy life to the fullest and have the energy to pursue all my goals. I will do this by exercising regularly, following a nutritious diet and eliminating negative habits that are impacting my health."

Mission Statement Ideas

Have students go online and choose a quote from someone. Then they explain why that is their mission.

Take their name and write words that reflect their mission off of the letters.

Choose song lyrics (cited, of course) and explain why the song is their mission.

Write poems that explain their mission.

In the book [The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens](#), there are other examples of mission statements and explanations of how to write one and why.

Example 1:

It is my mission to:

- Graduate with a BA, while attaining the best education possible.
- Exercise the virtues of honesty and honor in all work I do.
- Commit myself to excellence, hold myself to the highest degree of integrity in all that I do, and never settle for less than my best work.
- Follow the points of authority already established, and when the time for advancement arrives, demonstrate that authority as necessary.
- Always maintain a solid demeanor and a positive attitude.
- Show respect to my co-workers and my fellow man, and at the same time, expect that respect in return.
- Embrace diversity and change, realize the strengths and build on the weaknesses of others.
- Always be held accountable for my words and my actions.
- Give back to my community and pay respect for those who helped me to where I am today.
- Never give up, and achieve all of my goals through persistence and dedication.
- “The man that would move the world must first move himself.” –Socrates

Example 2:

“We’re all in this together. Once we know that we are, we’re all stars and we see that.”

(Cast of High School Musical, [We’re All in This Together](#))

I chose this as my mission statement because I feel that no matter what, you’ll always have to work with people. We don’t have to get along, but once we know this we’ll have a better life. I prefer, in life, to not have many conflicts and just get along. This quote really shows that all I want is to have a good life, get along with others, and have fun.