

Writing a Personal Mission Statement

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Introducing the Concept

About a dozen years ago, when mission statements for churches and religious organizations were becoming popular, I was introduced to the idea of writing my own personal mission statement. I have written several personal mission statements in the intervening years, and try to update my personal mission statement regularly, giving it special attention and review at the beginning of each year. It isn't too late for you to work on your own personal mission statement as a guide for the remainder of 2010.

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 your life or in a particular area of your life. It is a way to focus your energy, actions, behaviors and decisions toward the things that are most important to you.

Personal Mission Statement Guidelines

There is no one right way to create a personal mission statement. The following are merely suggestions that may be helpful.

- Keep it simple, clear and brief.
- Your mission statement should tell what you want to focus on and who you want to become as a person. Think about specific actions, behaviors, habits and qualities that would have a positive impact in your life.
- Make sure your mission statement is positive.
- Include positive behaviors, character traits and values that you consider important and want to develop further.
- Think about actions, habits, behavior and character traits that 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.
- Make it emotional. Including an emotional payoff in your mission statement infuses it with passion and makes it more compelling, inspiring and energizing.

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

Personal Mission Statement Ideas

[Note: in your first efforts, just write whatever comes into your head when you see these concepts. The rough draft is just for you, and you can go back and edit and improve it.]

Principles that guide your life

Values and why they matter

Character traits or qualities that matter to you

What you want to achieve, do, or become (consistent with the values you have identified)

Why it is important?

What behaviors will be required?

Best wishes in your effort to give focus and meaning to your life by identifying your God-given purpose!