

**CREATING A PERSONAL MISSION STATEMENT**

A personal mission statement explains who you are and who you want to be, and what you represent. You can use it to guide you when making choices and decisions, large and small, by asking yourself – does it help me become who I want to be? A personal mission statement also helps you explain who you are to others.

**A Two-Step Approach**

A personal mission statement should answer three questions:

- (1) What is my life about – what is my life’s purpose?
- (2) What do I stand for – what are my values?
- (3) What accomplishments am I working toward that will help me fulfill my life’s purpose in a manner consistent with my values?

**Step 1: Clarifying purpose and values**

A. Write a list of at least 20 talents you have – pretend there is a big reward for coming up with each one.

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B. What excites you about your life? About the world? What angers you about your life? About the world?

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**STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS IN MENTORING**

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C. What would a really good day be like for you? Where would you be? What would you do? Imagine anything – it doesn't have to be true.

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D. Imagine that today is your 50th birthday, and a reporter is writing a story about what you have done. What would you hope people (your friends, the people you work with, family members) would say about you to the reporter? What difference would you hope you had made in their lives? How do you want to be remembered?

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E. Imagine yourself at 100 years old, surrounded by your loved ones – talking with them in a comfortable, relaxed setting. These people have gathered to learn from you and your wisdom. What would you tell them is important in life? Looking back on your life, what really matters to you?

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**Step 2: Drafting a Mission Statement**

Look over what you've written during Step 1. Then look again at the three questions a mission statement should answer. Consider how they fit together and how they can lead to a conclusion.

Write a rough draft of your personal mission statement. It should be brief but should still express who you are. When you read your personal mission statement, you should feel something, like "yes, that's who I really am!"

The greatest mistake you can make in life is to be continually afraid of making a mistake.

**My Mission Statement:**

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Keep your draft personal mission statement with you and look at it several times during the day – see how it makes you feel. You may want to bring it to the next several meetings with your mentor to talk about it and see if you want to change it.