

PERSONAL LEADERSHIP & PERSONAL MISSION STATEMENTS

Personal leadership is the self confident ability to crystallize your thinking and establish an exact direction for your life, to commit yourself to moving in that direction and then to take determined action to acquire, accomplish or become whatever you identify as the ultimate goal for your life. Personal leadership is a process of developing a positive self-image that gives you the courage and self-confidence necessary to consciously choose actions that satisfy your needs, to follow that path with perseverance, and accept responsibility for the outcome.

Exercising personal leadership demands conscious assumption of control over one's own destiny through the establishment of personal goals based on values that give depth and meaning to every action. Doing what you know is right and productive for you regardless of obstacles or the opinions of others is the essence of personal leadership. To exercise strong personal leadership people must recognize and believe in their own untapped potential, develop a strong self-image, be self-motivated through hope and faith in their personal vision through desires (needs) held with expectation and belief that they will be realized. Also, at the personal level, success must be defined in terms of the progressive realization of worthwhile predetermined personal goals.

The foundation of personal leadership is a **Personal Mission Statement**. It is a philosophy or creed that focuses on what you want to be (character), to do (contributions and achievements), and on the values or principles that your attitudes and actions are based. It is a personal constitution that, much like the United States Constitution, is fundamentally changeless.

“It becomes a personal constitution, the basis for making major, life-directional decisions in the midst of the circumstances and emotions that affect our lives. It empowers individuals with the same timeless strength in the midst of change (Covey, 1990, p.108.)”

Personal leadership should be viewed as a journey not a destination. Like spiritual perfection it is something one can always lose if not continuously being sought, and where progress is the goal not perfection.

The development and presentation of a personal mission statement requires you to apply these issues of personal leadership to yourself personally. Your statement might include answering such personal questions as:

1. What is my journey in life? Why do I exist to pursue my journey?
2. What really counts.... What matters most to me;
3. What do I want to accomplish with my life?
4. What adjectives others would use in describing you if you accomplished your mission?
5. How you would like to be remembered (accomplishments and or attributes).

Write your personal mission statement as a positive affirmation (minimum 5-10 point penalty if you fail to do this). Also, identify and describe what you believe to be the **10 values that** are most important to your personal leadership and **rank each in order of importance** to your personal leadership. Write a brief but clear defense of why you ranked them in the order you did. Also identify 3-6 High Importance/High Power stakeholders and the expectations you must meet or exceed to satisfy each stakeholder