

# Personal Mission Statement\*

Congratulations! You have embarked on your own journey into the world of Research. Whatever topic you choose to study, you need to keep in mind your *own* personal connection to the questions you will ask. To start, consider why you are here. What is your goal: to build your resume, to get into a science fair, to learn about an area of interest? The most important thing is to understand yourself. Let's start with your values.

**Values:** The inner judgements or beliefs that determine how a person behaves.

Consider the list of values on the next page as you follow the steps below:

1. Circle 20 values that you possess.
2. Narrow your selection to 10 that describe you more strongly than the other 10.
3. Next, eliminate 5, leaving 5 that BEST describe you.
4. Choose the top 3 that DEFINE you.
5. Use these THREE words to Create a Personal Mission Statement.

Use this equation to write your own mission statement:

The value you create + who you are creating it for + the expected outcome.

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# Values Exist

Accountability	Ethics	Openness	Thankfulness
Accuracy	Equality	Optimism	Thoroughness
Achievement	Excellence	Order	Thoughtfulness
Adaptability	Excitement	Originality	Thrift
Adventure	Expertise	Parenting	Time
Altruism	Exploration	Patience	Timeliness
Ambition	Expressiveness	Patriotism	Tolerance
Assertiveness	Fairness	Peace	Tradition
Authenticity	Faith	Perfection	Travel
Balance	Family	Perseverance	Trustworthiness
Beauty	Fidelity	Personal Fulfillment	Truth
Being the Best	Financial Stability	Piety	Understanding
Belonging	Fitness	Positivity	Uniqueness
Boldness	Fluency	Power	Unity
Career	Focus	Practicality	Usefulness
Calmness	Forgiveness	Preparedness	Vision
Carefulness	Freedom	Pride	Vulnerability
Challenge	Friendship	Professionalism	Vitality
Cheerfulness	Fun	Prudence	Wealth
Clear Mindedness	Future Generations	Quality-orientation	Well-being
Collaboration	Generosity	Recognition	Wholeheartedness
Commitment	Goodness	Reliability	Wisdom
Community	Grace	Resourcefulness	
Compassion	Gratitude	Respect	
Competitiveness	Growth	Responsibility	
Confidence	Happiness	Restraint	
Consistency	Hard Work	Results-oriented	
Contentment	Harmony	Rigor	
Continuous	Health	Risk-taking	
Improvement	Helping Society	Safety	
Contribution	Holiness	Security	
Control	Honesty	Self-actualization	
Cooperation	Honor	Self-control	
Correctness	Humility	Self-discipline	
Courage	Humor	Self-expression	
Courtesy	Independence	Selflessness	
Creativity	Ingenuity	Self-reliance	
Curiosity	Initiative	Self-respect	
Decisiveness	Inner Harmony	Sensitivity	
Democratic	Integrity	Serenity	
Dependability	Inquisitiveness	Service	
Determination	Insightfulness	Shrewdness	
Devoutness	Intelligence	Simplicity	
Dignity	Intellectual Status	Soundness	
Diligence	Intuition	Speed	
Discipline	Job Security	Spontaneity	
Discretion	Joy	Spirituality	
Diversity	Justice	Sportsmanship	
Dynamism	Leadership	Stability	
Economy	Legacy	Strategic	
Effectiveness	Love	Strength	
Efficiency	Loyalty	Stewardship	
Elegance	Making a Difference	Structure	
Empathy	Mastery	Success	
Environment	Merit	Support	
Enjoyment	Nature	Teamwork	
Enthusiasm	Obedience	Temperance	

### Teacher Notes:

A Personal Mission Statement is Valuable. Students need to feel connected to their research topic. This will help them retain motivation to put in their best work and to be open to the richness of their study. A strong statement will help students focus their energy, actions, and behavior as they continue with their studies.

When reviewing student statements, keep in mind that a statement should indicate what a student wishes to focus on, accomplish and become.

Here are some examples of mission statements made by famous people:

**Oprah Winfrey (Founder of the Oprah Winfrey Network):** *To be a teacher. And to be known for inspiring my students to be more than they thought they could be.*

**Elon Musk (Founder of SpaceX):** *If something's important enough you should try, even if the probable outcome is failure.*

**Malala Yousafzai (Nobel Prize Laureate & Activist):** *I want to serve the people. And I want every girl, every child to be educated.*

\*This activity was inspired by the one authored by Allison Mackey (Vice President for Education at Berks Nature). Here is a link to the original version:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rDTvUX6gcEXFuxawqvrRboFrH8Lr9o2LifzxSS-dxqU/edit?usp=sharing>