



Senior Project Mission Statement & Personal Code Guidelines

Whenever you start a big project, you need to address some simple questions:

- What is your purpose?
- What do you stand for?
- Who are you?

Your purpose is, in essence, your mission statement. What you stand for is your own personal philosophy. Who you are is reflected by the things you do.

There is a subtle difference between your “mission” and your “goals.” A mission statement is global and describes your overall purpose and direction. A goal is specific and normally has a time limit, such as, one year or three years. Because of this difference, your mission statement should not include your goals or plans in life, but rather your broad purpose and beliefs.

The best way to make sure that your mission statement is known and understood by you and others is to communicate it through writing. Your mission statement should be simple and should clearly state your beliefs.

- **Simplicity:** Keep it simple and direct. Both the Gettysburg Address and the Preamble to the Constitution are under 300 words.
- **Belief:** Say only what you believe and intend to enforce.
- **Actions:** Your actions, in relation to these stated beliefs and standards, will tell others whether or not you are truly committed to them.

Personal Code

Ultimately, your personal code is like your motto or slogan. It is comprised of short statements or sayings that offer advice and give direction to your life. Here are some examples.

1. Mc Donald's: “I'm lovin' it.”
2. Nike: Just do it.”
3. The Army: “An Army of one.”
4. Franklin D. Roosevelt: “The only thing we have to fear is fear itself”

1. Write ten statements that inspire **you** and provide **you** with guidance in living **your** life.
2. Your 10 statements will become your Personal Code that will be placed below your mission statement on the same piece of paper.

If you have trouble writing your mission statement or personal code, feel free to draft using the first person point of view. But remember, **no first person in the final copy!**



Mission Statement/Personal Code Example

Mission Statement

Life is an ever-changing cycle like the seasons of the year. It can be as insensitive as an icy Alaskan winter, or as soothing as a summer morning on a sandy beach. Adjustment is what keeps people sane. One must not become too rigid because life can change as quickly as the tide. As one must watch out for hazards while walking through rocky, mountainous terrain, so one must also choose to see the good in a dangerous world. The important thing is to understand that whichever way is chosen, people must deal with their decisions both good and bad, and determine to press on while discovering life's richest meaning.

Personal Code

1. Honesty and integrity should override all decisions.
2. Set goals and do what is necessary to attain them.
3. Always seek to lend a helping hand.
4. Always set a good example for others.
5. Be the type of leader who others respect.
6. When given responsibility, carry it out with excellence.
7. Mistakes are the building blocks of invention.
8. That which does not destroy character ultimately makes it stronger.
9. Practice makes permanent.
10. Always aim higher.

*Your values should not be determined by what you have; rather, your values should govern how you want to be.