

Key Beliefs

are traits or qualities that you consider not just worthwhile; they represent your highest priorities, deeply held beliefs and core, fundamental driving forces. These core values are also guiding principles because they form a solid core of who you are, what you believe, and who you want to be going forward. They keep you on track during difficult times.

A personal vision:

- describes what you want to achieve in the future;
- is based upon key beliefs;
- helps identify key skills you will need to achieve your vision;
- drives you to take action (Key Initiatives);
- inspires you to do your very best.

Writing your personal vision and key beliefs statement will help you clarify who you are and help you focus on where you want to go.

It's not easy. In fact it is difficult. You likely will struggle and will re-write it several times before you are comfortable with it. There is no "right" answer. Most importantly, it's how you see yourself and how you see your life's journey.



Writing Key Beliefs

Start with sentences and phrases and rewrite to eliminate words to narrow down to the core words that convey your beliefs.

Keep the number of Key Beliefs to three or four.

Review and revise over time.

Try to use strong verbs and short sentences.

Just start writing. Don't worry about getting it perfect the first time. There is no "perfect." There is no judgment about what you write. All that matters is that your Key Beliefs are yours and you will be able to use them to help you make choices you will respect when you face problems or difficult decisions.

Key Beliefs example of thinking and writing process:

I really believe personal integrity is important when dealing with others.

Personal integrity with others is important.

When interacting with others integrity is important.

Interact with integrity.

You may want to reference the Living miDream book, page 23.

Franklin Covey's online
Mission Builder may be helpful also.



MY TOP FIVE

KEY BELIEFS ARE:

(things I will not compromise)

Write them as sentences or phrases.

The form consists of a vertical line on the left side of the page. To the right of this line, there are five horizontal lines, each starting with a small grey dot. These lines are intended for writing the top five key beliefs. The remaining space on the page is blank.

NARROW DOWN MY TOP FIVE THREE

KEY BELIEFS ARE:

(things I will not compromise)

Write them as sentences or phrases.

You may be able to combine or merge ideas from your original Key Beliefs to get the total down to three. If not, prioritize what is most important to you.

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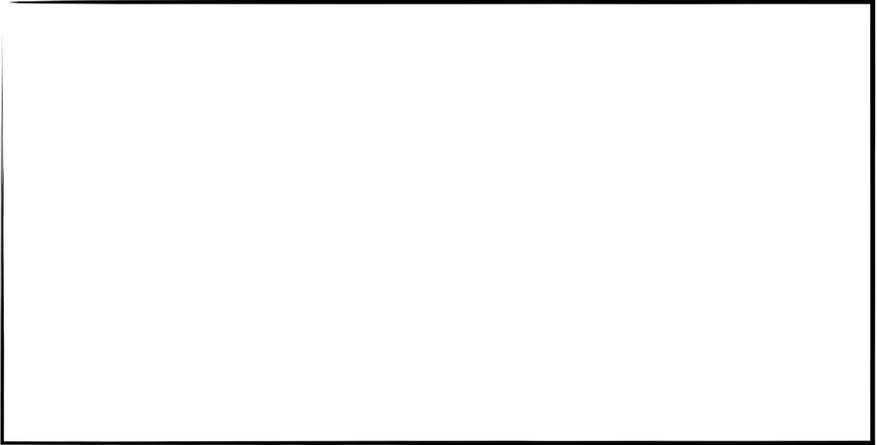
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Now begin to wordsmith these top three. Tighten up the sentences/ phrases to essential words that convey the concept(s) that is critically important. After you have worked through this process, and you just feel like there needs to be a fourth one, then add it to your Key Beliefs. However, add only when you have this nagging feeling that something is missing and just has to be there.

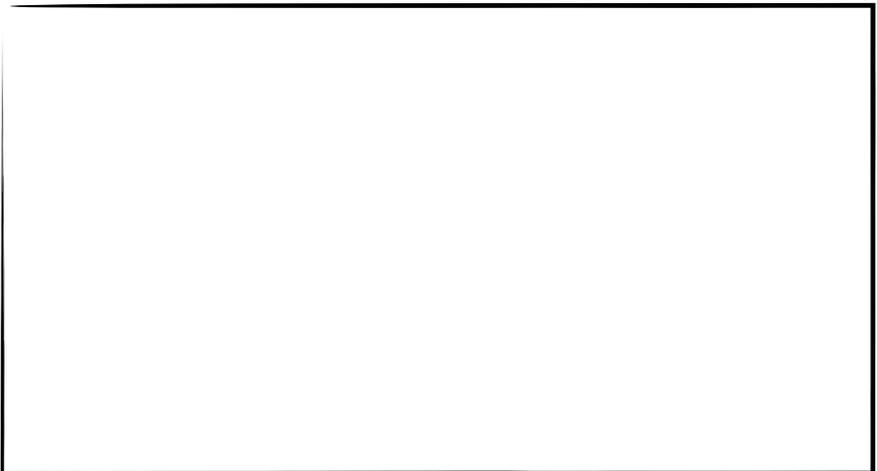
KEY BELIEFS

Version 2



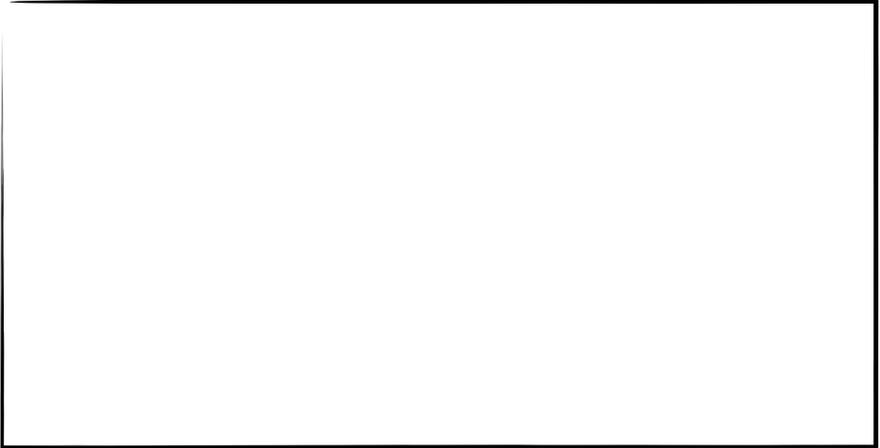
KEY BELIEFS

Version 3



KEY BELIEFS

Version 4

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KEY BELIEFS

Final Version - For Now

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VISION STATEMENT

Use the same strategy in writing your vision statement that you did in your Key Beliefs. One approach could be to start with problems that you are concerned about and envisioning what solutions to those problems would result in.

Example:

- **Problem** - I feel like not everyone is living and working to their fullest capacity. Sometimes it feels like others are not taking responsibility for their future and are more willing to take than to give. I just feel we all have the capacity to do more and be better if we knew how and were motivated.
- **Problem** - It seems to me that in school we are telling students what they need to do based upon teachers and administrators ideas and are imposing a curriculum that isn't connecting with students lives. And it feels like what we are teaching isn't really preparing students for life outside of school. I wish that students had more of a voice in making decisions about their education and that they took responsibility for developing their own talents.
- **Problem** - We need more leaders who are truly interested in improving the human condition and taking care of our environment. I feel like my ideas are often disrespected by leaders.
- **Problem** - Seems like there are a lot of unhappy and angry people. I wish more people were happy with their life. I think this could be addressed in part if people felt they had more control over their destiny. I think if more people had a purpose for living beyond themselves that everyone would feel better and we would get more important things accomplished.
- **Problem** - I wonder how I could make a difference to solve these problems?

My vision is a world where everyone is contributing to their fullest, a world where intrinsic talents are developed, where leadership empowers capacity building for every person and where people are happy with their life pursuits.

Key beliefs that my vision is based upon:

- *Opportunities Build Capacity*
- *Interact with Integrity*
- *Respect Diversity*
- *Purpose is Powerful*

VISION STATEMENT

Another approach could be to think about your hopes, dreams, and desires for what the world and your place in it would look like. There are many things that are going well. Perhaps you want to support the good things that are happening.

Also, your vision statement should be something that you can rely upon when you are faced with new and challenge situations where you must make difficult decisions.

To get started, write what you are thinking today. Just start writing. You can refine and adjust your thinking over time.

As I write my vision statement, what problems, concerns, hopes, and factors to consider when making difficult decisions am I thinking about?

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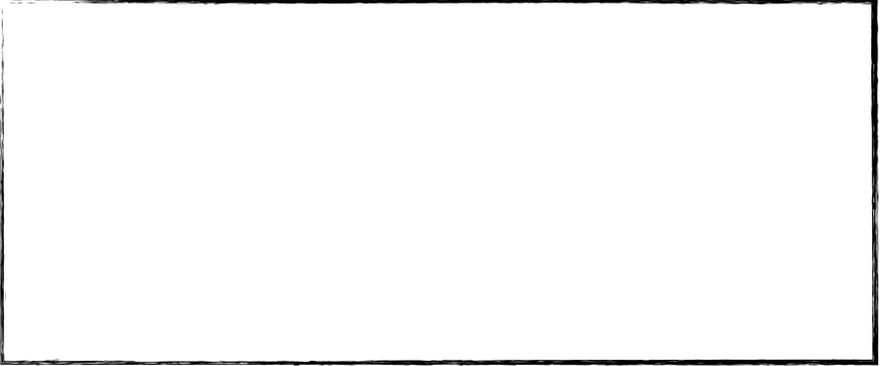
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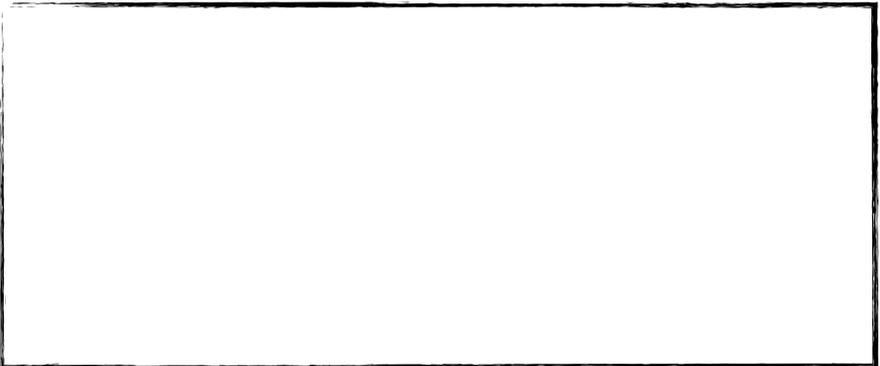
VISION STATEMENT

Version 1



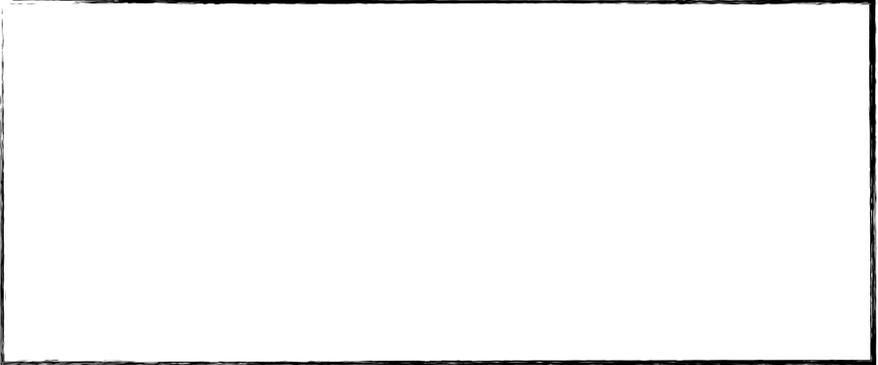
VISION STATEMENT

Version 2



VISION STATEMENT

Final Version - For Now



KEY BELIEFS

Final Version - For Now

