

Personal Statement of Purpose

Why write a personal statement of purpose? The things we value and our core motivations for action impact how we interact with other people and approach challenges. Personal statements of purpose can serve as a reminder to yourself why you do what you do as well as inspire others. The goal of this exercise is to help you reflect on the relationship between your values and actions.

Keep in mind the following:

- There are no right or wrong answers here. Your statement should reflect your current goals and values.
- Keep it short and simple. A well-written sentence will do!
- Your statement will change over time as you continue to grow personally.

Here are some steps to getting started on your statement of purpose:

1. Identify 3-5 values that you feel describe and guide who you are. Here is a short list of qualities/traits to get you thinking.

Please keep in mind this is not an all-encompassing list but rather a tool to help you identify some of your values:

Values Table

Achievement	Affluence	Collaboration	Diverse perspectives	Humor	Loyalty
Activity	Authority	Community	Duty	Harmony	Friendship
Advancement	Balance	Competency	Economic security	Integrity	Recognition
Adventure	Challenge	Competition	Faith	Justice	Self-respect
Affiliation	Change	Courage	Health	Love	Wisdom

Example: Community, Integrity, and Health

2. Identify how these values impact your leadership actions:

How do you display your values through your leadership action?

Examples:

- Organizing monthly “Coffee & Conversation” meetings that include key stakeholders like farmers, grocers, and local community members.
- Collaborating with a diverse team from the community, local college, and local government to identify holes in the current food transportation system.
- Making the conscious choice to grow organic produce and promote benefits with others engaged with organic farming practices.

3. Identify the core motivation(s) for these actions:

Example:

- I believe people can live happier and more productive lives with access to fresh, healthy food. Everyone deserves access to healthy food.

4. Put your thoughts together: Remember your statement is not set in stone. It can change over time as you continue to grow.

Here are some examples based on the same values and actions listed below:

- As a food revolutionary, I am committed to growing organic produce and inspiring others to support sustainable farming practices in order to provide local citizens with wholesome and affordable food.

- As a food revolutionary, I am committed to making healthy eating affordable and accessible to all people so they can lead happier and more productive lives.
- Making the world a better place on carrot at a time.
- I am committed to growing food with integrity, inspiring others through hard work, and making healthy eating affordable and accessible to all people so they can lead happier and more productive lives.
- Fresh produce for all with integrity from garden to table.