Your Personal Journey

There are many milestones in your journey to become a leader. Whether you are a new or experienced manager/leader, it is important to share the lessons of your journey with others.

Leaders tell stories. Leaders share their lessons with others. When this happens, the leadership practices become more real and more valuable. Consider the best method to Model the Way for others. It begins with examples of how other leaders have impacted you, and how your experiences have taught you. You demonstrate your own leadership values and practices, and you share your personal leadership lessons.

You may have stories to share around each practice, or a story that encompasses all practices. Each experience is a story of what you learned, often through trial and error.

Leaders who take the time to write their story, and consistently share it are able to put the five leadership practices into action more quickly. Your leadership story basically captures the highlights of who you are and who they want to be as a leader. It allows you to share components in part, or in whole, with others.

Components of a leadership story can include:

- Mission & Vision
- Core Values
- Guiding Principles
- Words to Live By
- Leadership Lessons through your Personal Story

A leadership story is never complete, nor ever perfect. But it can capture the milestones of your leadership journey, and help you share it with others.

Let’s continue your journey …

Core Values

In the boxes below, list your defined values. Include a statement that describes that value in your own words.

Example:

**Creativity:** To be inventive and original

My Core Values:
Guiding Principles

By definition, guiding principles are any principles or precepts that guide a person, team or organization throughout its life in all circumstances, irrespective of changes in its goals, strategies, type of work, or current situation.

Example:

**Principle:** Always Build Bridges; Never Burn Them. It is likely you will cross them again.

What are your guiding principles?

| Principle: | Always Build Bridges; Never Burn Them. It is likely you will cross them again. |

Words to Live By

Quotes inspire us. They can inspire others. What are some quotes/sayings that capture the essence of who you are as a leader, and align with your core values and guiding principles?

“

“

My Quotables

People who know me well would quote me saying ...

“

“
My Leadership Filters

The best personal decisions for your life and career can be made when you define your own filters. Using your leadership filters exercise, answer these questions.

I am at my best when ...

I am at my worst when ...

Using Your Filters

Filters help define you without limiting you. By determining what works best with your passions, values and personal motivators, you can make better decisions. To consider future roles and what works best within your filters, consider the following questions:

In the future, I should consider roles that:

In the future, I should consider roles that do not:

“The secret to performance & satisfaction is the deeply human need to direct our own lives, to learn and create new things, and to do better by ourselves and our world.”

Daniel Pink
Author of “Drive”
Defining Moments

Our leadership story is constructed from lessons learned throughout our lives and careers. Both our greatest times and our worst times shape us and define us. Use the timeline below to capture 2-3 of your highest peaks in life so far (both personal and professional), as well as your lowest valleys.

**MY PERSONAL TIMELINE**

**Highest Peaks**

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**Lowest Valleys**

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**Peak Events**

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**Valley Events**

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Finding Your Voice as a Leader
### Peak Events

**Common Denominators of my peak events:**

### Valley Events

**Common Denominators of my valley events:**

**Lessons Learned:**

No one gets it perfect the first time they try something new. The best leaders are the best learners and the best creators of a learning environment.
My Personal Mission Statement (PURPOSE)

A personal mission statement provides clarity and gives you a sense of purpose. It defines who you are and how you will live. By definition, a mission is altruistic – it is a simple statement about your purpose in life, but not about you. Example: “Help Others Grow” is a simple mission statement that is focused on a purpose outside of yourself and is not defined by a job title or role.

**Work – My primary purpose is:**

**Home/Family – My primary purpose is:**

**Community – My primary purpose is:**

**Common Threads**

Look at the statements you wrote for work, home/family and community. What are the common threads that could be used for your mission?

**Draft Mission Statement**

Write the first draft of your mission statement below. Keep it simple, no more than one or two sentences. Use strong verbs to begin the statement.

**Draft Mission Statement**

[Blank space for writing]
My Personal Vision Statement (HOW TO LIVE YOUR PURPOSE)

Vision, by definition, is how you will accomplish your mission. A vision statement is a vivid idealized description of a desired outcome that inspires, energizes and helps you create a mental picture of your target. Focus on the how you want to live your mission. Use action statements that support your mission and focus beyond yourself.

**Work - How I live my purpose:**

**Home/Family – How I live my purpose:**

**Community – How I live my purpose:**

**Common Threads**

Look at the statements you wrote for work, home/family and community. What are the common threads that could be used for your mission?

**Draft Vision Statement**

Write the first draft of your vision statement below. Keep it simple, no more than one or two sentences. Use strong verbs to begin the statement.
# My Leadership Story

<table>
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<th>Mission</th>
<th>My Story</th>
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<td>Vision</td>
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<td>Core Values</td>
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