

Mission, Vision, Values, and Goals

During the sixth grade I was kicked out of school for physically harming my best friend, who had been verbally abusing me for months. I had continued to allow the abuse to build up inside until one afternoon at recess I snapped; to this day I'm unsure as to what I specifically did, but I will always remember the awful feeling that followed. My reactions and response to this single event are the reasons for why I am here. It has given me drive and motivation to continue down a road away from that feeling, as well as provide a set of values to work within and a set of goals to work towards.

I find purpose in my life when enjoying it. It may sound silly or superficial at first, but I truly believe that by actively pursuing joy I am able to simultaneously spread it and avoid the build up of abuse. Almost ten years have gone by living with this mission in mind, and I see no reason for it to change in another ten years. At thirty one years old, I am married and have two children. We live just up the coast in Carlsbad, in a quiet neighborhood that is a couple of blocks away from the beach. Our house is modest but nice, almost always kept clean and has lots of plants. There is a jacuzzi in the backyard and an area for the pets to play, which consist of one cat and one dog. The house has a two car garage with an overhang, my wife and I both have nice sedans and one old truck for off roading, each owned outright. Everything is paid for by my job, which is being one of the head graphic designers at Volcom. I have worked within the company since graduation and slowly climbed the ladder, with high hopes of a promotion to creative director in the near future.

One of the ways this is achieved is by operating within a certain set of values. These values have been gleaned from my environment and opinion leaders such as parents, they consist of positivity, creativity, and relating. If I am making decisions that do not fulfill at least one of the values than I am not beneficially contributing to others or myself. By striving to be positive in my own life I help those around me to feel the same, which I do as easily as sharing a smile daily to someone that isn't. Creativity is my passion as well as one of the main criteria for choices that I make; if an answer is made that conforms to the general consensus than I force myself to reconsider why I behave that way and if it results in the greater good. Relating is another factor that is present in my personal behavior because I believe if you don't have a well rounded perspective of others than it is impossible to truly enjoy one another.

Establishing specific and measurable goals to work toward while on the path into the future is crucial, they are as follows:

- Spend a combined minimum of four weeks every year traveling or relaxing in a new environment.
- Be completely free of all debt by retirement, and retire by the age of sixty.
- Maintain a healthy body and lifestyle by working out at least three times weekly.

Just like in sixth grade, I am at a point in my life when big changes are quickly approaching. It is of the utmost importance to critically evaluate who I am based upon my values and where those will project me into the future. To wonder ones purpose or meaning in life is a common thought, but I have never sat down and specifically envisioned what my life will look like. In doing so, I have enjoyed myself and reaffirmed my direction in life.