



Time
Required:
45 minutes

Grade Level:
3rd -12th
grades

Skills for the 21st Century Marketplace Activity

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“Mission Possible” Creating a Personal Mission Statement

Infusionomics Themes, Keystone Economic Principles, and Skills for the 21st Century Marketplace:

•**THEME: CHOICES**

- Keystone Economic Principle™ #1:** We all make choices
- Skills:** 1. Personal Management; b. Goal Setting; c. Initiative and Self Direction
- Skills:** 6. Strategic Planning;

•**THEME: COSTS**

- Skills:** 9. Leadership Development; Inspire a shared mission/vision

•**THEME: RESOURCES**

- Keystone Economic Principle™ #6:** Do What You Do Best, Trade for the Rest

** For additional standards and content references, please see the [end of document](#).

Overview:

“Mission Possible” is an activity designed to guide participants through the process of writing a personal mission statement. As individuals are guided through this step-by-step process, they will reflect upon what actions, values and causes inspire them. These become the building blocks of their mission statement. This exercise is an adaptation from *The Path* by Laurie Beth Jones.

Objectives:

Guide individuals in the crafting of a personal mission statement. This lesson also provides an opportunity for individuals to identify the actions, values and beliefs that guide their life.

Materials and Handouts:

[Handout #1:](#) Mission Statement Action Verbs

[Handout #2:](#) Mission Statement Core Values

[Handout #3:](#) Mission Statement Tribes

[Handout #4:](#) Mission Statement Worksheet

Teacher Notes:

- How to prepare: Read the activity and become familiar with the exercise. Facilitators are encouraged to use this activity to create their own mission statement prior to leading a group in the process.
- Outline of steps:
 1. Introduction 1-2 minutes
 2. Identify Your Actions no more than 5 minutes
 3. Identify Your Core Values no more than 5 minutes
 4. Connecting Value & Action no more than 5 minutes
 5. Identify Your Tribe no more than 5 minutes
 6. Putting it all Together no more than 10 minutes

Activity:

- Introduction – 1-2 minutes –
 - Introduce the lesson by saying: *“As you may be aware, most organizations have a mission statement. The purpose of this statement is to communicate to the public what the organization is committed to doing. A vision statement communicates the ideal; the end result to which the work is leading. During this activity, we will focus on what each of you is committed to doing with your lives. The end result will be your personal mission statement.”*
- Identify Your Actions (no more than 5 minutes)
 - In “identify your actions,” students are asked to select action words (verbs) that will subsequently be incorporated into their mission statement.
 - Distribute [Handout #1](#) and [Handout #4](#)
 - *“Every mission requires action and action words are verbs. Review Handout #1 and select 3 verbs that most inspire you. Write them in the designated spaces on your worksheet.”*
 - Allow two to three minutes to complete the task.
- Identify Your Core Values (no more than 5 minutes)
 - In “identify your values,” students will be asked to reflect on their values and to identify three that are at the core of their lives.
 - Distribute [Handout #2](#)
 - *“Our actions are driven by our values. To that end, no mission statement would be complete without language to reflect personal (or collective) values. Review Handout #2 of values and select three. Write them in the designated spaces on your worksheet.”*
 - Allow participants 1-2 minutes to complete task.
 - *“Take a moment now and really consider the three values you have selected. Of those three, what principle, cause, value, or purpose would you be willing to devote your life to? What is at the core of your being? What would you be willing to “defend to the death? Allow participants 1 minute to complete task.*
- Connecting Value & Action (no more than 5 minutes)
 - During this portion of the activity, students will determine how well their chosen actions and values will function together in a mission statement.
 - *“Now that you have selected your value(s) and your actions, it is important to see if they pass the compatibility test. Using the next portion of your worksheet, combine each action with your chosen value(s) to see if they “make sense” when working together in a sentence or phrase.” In the event one or more verbs doesn’t make sense when paired with the core value(s), it is important to determine which of the two words is more “true” to whom you are. Keep that word, set aside the other, and identify a stronger word to replace it. One of*

the alternate words you selected may be a better choice. It is important to identify what it is about the word that you like. Does it represent what you really want to do?"

- *"Take the next few minutes to complete this portion of the activity."*
Allow participants 2-4 minutes to complete task.
- Identify Your Tribe (no more than 5 minutes)
 - In the "identify your tribe" phase of the activity, students will be challenged to identify the causes to which they are committed.
 - Distribute [Handout #3](#)
 - *"As you think about what you want your life to be about, it is important to think about the causes (or tribes) in which you really believe. Are there specific groups of people, organizations or causes that you are committed to serving or helping in some positive way? Where and with whom does your passion lie?"*
 - *"Take the next few minutes to review the list of tribes and identify the three whom you most want to serve or be connected with in a meaningful way. Write the three you choose on your worksheet."*
Allow participants up to 5 minutes to complete the task
- Putting it all Together (no more than 10 minutes)
 - During this portion of the activity, students put all of the pieces together to write their mission statement.
 - *"Now that you have identified your actions, values and passions, it's time to pull it all together into a mission statement. Your mission is the sum of these three components: verbs, values, and tribes."*
 - *"Spend the next few minutes reflecting upon what you have done thus far and think about what you really want to be about. What purpose do you have for your life? Listen to the "still, small voice" within and, using your verbs, values and tribes, try to articulate what your heart is saying. Use the space provided on your worksheet to write your mission statement."*
 - Allow participants up to five minutes to complete this task.
 - *One "test" of a good mission statement is to determine if it is inspiring, exciting, clear, true and engaging. As you read through the statement you have written mentally respond to the following questions:*
 - *Is it you?*
 - *Is it true?*
 - *Does it make sense?*
 - *Is it inspiring?*
 - *Does it excite you?*
 - *Does it excite others? (ASK!)*
 - *Would you be willing to have your life be about this and only this?*
 - *Is this something you can do in varied contexts (work, home, alone, social gatherings)?*
 - *Take the next few minutes to review what you have written and make modifications as you see fit.*
 - Allow participants 2-3 minutes to complete this task.
 - Bring participants back together as a group and provide an opportunity for individuals to share their mission statements and to reflect upon the process.

Additional Standards and Content References

Voluntary National Content Standards in Economics:

- Standard #2 : Decision Making; Benefit, Costs

Partnership for 21st Century Life Skills Concept:

- Life and Career Skills> Initiative and Self-Direction> Manage Goals and Time>Balance tactical (short-term) and strategic (long-term) goals

National Content Standards for Entrepreneurship Education:

- Ready Skills; B. Entrepreneurial Traits/Behaviors; Personal Management, B.28 Set personal goals
- Business Functions O. Strategic Management; Planning; O.05 Develop business mission

Keystone Economic Principles™:

- For more information: http://infusionomics.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/Keystone_Cheat.pdf

Handout #1: Mission Statement: Action Verbs

Accomplish	Distribute	Know	Regard
Achieve	Draft	Labor	Relate
Acquire	Dream	Launch	Relax
Adopt	Drive	Lead	Release
Advance	Educate	Light	Rely
Affect	Elect	Live	Remember
Affirm	Embrace	Love	Renew
Alleviate	Encourage	Make	Resonate
Amplify	Endow	Maintain	Respect
Appreciate	Engage	Manifest	Restore
Ascend	Engineer	Master	Return
Assist	Enhance	Mature	Revise
Associate	Enlighten	Maximize	Sacrifice
Believe	Enlist	Measure	Safeguard
Bestow	Enliven	Mediate	Satisfy
Brighten	Entertain	Model	Save
Build	Enthuse	Mold	Sell
Call	Evaluate	Motivate	Serve
Cause	Excite	Move	Share
Choose	Expand	Navigate	Speak
Claim	Explore	Negotiate	Stand
Collect	Express	Nurture	Summon
Combine	Extend	Open	Support
Command	Facilitate	Organize	Surrender
Communicate	Finance	Originate	Sustain
Compel	Forgive	Participate	Take
Compete	Foster	Pass	Tap
Complete	Franchise	Perform	Teach
Compliment	Further	Persuade	Team
Compose	Gather	Plan	Touch
Conceive	Generate	Play	Trade
Confirm	Give	Possess	Transform
Connect	Grant	Practice	Translate
Consider	Heal	Praise	Travel
Construct	Hold	Prepare	Understand
Contact	Host	Present	Unify
Continue	Identify	Produce	Use
Counsel	Illuminate	Progress	Utilize
Create	Implement	Promise	Validate
Decide	Improve	Promote	Value
Defend	Improvise	Provide	Venture
Delight	Increase	Pursue	Verbalize
Deliver	Influence	Realize	Volunteer
Demonstrate	Inspire	Receive	Work
Design	Integrate	Reclaim	Worship
Devise	Introduce	Reduce	Write
Direct	Invent	Refine	
Discover	Involve	Reflect	
Discuss	Keep	Reform	

Handout #2: Mission Statement: Core Values

Achievement	Happiness	Pleasure
Altruism	Health	Positive attitude
Charity	Honesty	Power
Cooperation	Honor	Recognition
Creativity	Hope	Relationships
Dignity	Humility	Respect
Economic Security	Independence	Safety
Emotional Well-being	Inner peace	Self-worth
Equality	Integrity	Service
Excellence	Joy	Simplicity
Fame	Justice	Trust
Faith	Kindness	Truth
Family	Knowledge	Wealth
Freedom	Love	Wholeness
Friendship	Loyalty	Wisdom
Generosity	Nobility	

Handout #3: Mission Statement: Tribes

In order to create a strong mission statement, it is important to have a sense of clarity on whom you really want to serve, inspire, learn from, and impact in a positive way. The list below provides examples of groups or causes: tribes. Pick the three that most appeal to you.

Addiction (alcohol, other drug, etc.)	Performing arts	Spirituality
Environment	Art	The ill & disabled
Family issues	Literature	Public safety
Education	Music	Human development
Health care	Design	Infants
Elderly	Sports	Child protection
Children	Food	Childcare
The poor	Computer technology	Justice
The homeless	Labor relations	Home health care
Immigration	Printing & publishing	Tourism
Energy	Religion community development	Defense
Agriculture	Reproductive issues	Space exploration
The justice system	Biotech	Animal rights
Veterans	Women's issues	Animal care
Nutrition	Gardening	Animal protection
Law	Broadcasting	Labor relations
Politics	Youth	Literacy
Government	Non-profit agencies	Border issues
News	Churches	Civil rights issues
Journalism	Synagogues	

Handout #4: Mission Statement Worksheet

STEP ONE: My three verbs

Alternate verbs: _____

STEP TWO: My core values

My primary core value: _____

STEP THREE: Fine-tuning

Can you _____ (verb 1) _____ (core value)?

Can you _____ (verb 2) _____ (core value)?

Can you _____ (verb 3) _____ (core value)?

STEP FOUR: Three tribes (causes, sources of passion)

STEP FIVE: Pulling it together

Mission = Verbs + Core Value(s) + Tribe(s)

Using the verbs, core value(s) and tribes you have selected, listen to your inner voice. What is your heart saying to you? Based on what you "hear," write a 1-2 sentence mission statement.

One “test” of a good mission statement is to determine if it is inspiring, exciting, clear, true and engaging. As you read through the statement you have written mentally respond to the following questions:

- Is it you?
- Is it true?
- Does it make sense?
- Is it inspiring?
- Does it excite you?
- Does it excite others? (ASK!)
- Would you be willing to have your life be about this and only this?
- Is this something you can do in varied contexts (work, home, alone, social gatherings)?

STEP SIX: Final Statement

Additional Standards and Content References

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- Standard #2 : Decision Making; Benefit, Costs

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