

# HABIT 2— BEGIN WITH THE END IN MIND

“CONTROL YOUR OWN DESTINY or someone else will”

- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.1** Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.
- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.7** Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words in order to address a question or solve a problem.
- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.11-12.1b** Work with peers to promote civil, democratic discussions and decision-making, set clear goals and deadlines, and establish individual roles as needed.



“The paths you choose **NOW** can affect you **FOREVER**.”— Sean Covey

Begin with the End in Mind means developing a clear picture of where you want to go in life. It means deciding what your values and principles are and setting goals for yourself. Habit 1 says you're the driver, not just the passenger. Habit 2 says that since you're the driver, decide on your destination and then create a map to get there.

To begin with the end in mind, you don't need to decide every little detail right now. That would take some fun out of the trip. Simply, if you think beyond today and decide what direction you want your life to go, it is more likely that each step will get you closer to that goal.

## THE CROSSROADS OF LIFE

As a teen, you benefit hugely from having an end in mind because you are at a critical crossroads in life. The paths you choose now affect your future.

At which crossroads of life are you standing right now? Which roads do you feel you are choosing (for example, college, marriage, family, career, armed forces, professional athlete, good healthy, money, etc.)? Daily you face questions about these issues that will affect your future beginning right now. Decide now how you will respond to these questions before you face them and have to decide without thinking.

- Write some of your crossroads on the sign.
- What are the questions that are being asked right now?



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## WHAT ABOUT FRIENDS?

Habit 2 teaches that the paths you choose today can shape you forever. If you join a gang, the things you do may affect you for the rest of your life. If you smoke, drink, or do drugs, how will your health be affected several years down the road? What values will you choose? What will you stand for? How will you contribute to the community? Believe it or not, answers to these questions depend on what you do and the decisions that you make as a teenager.

The Friends you choose can really affect the choices you make. Friends can help you or hurt you. They will seriously influence your attitude, reputation, and direction, so choose them wisely.

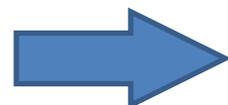
## WHAT ABOUT SCHOOL?

Whether you realize it or not, you have the entire world in front of you at this time in your life. You can achieve whatever you want. You can go as far as you want to go. But a large part of that is tied to the decisions you make about school. So choose wisely, and don't limit your options by selling yourself short.

### **\*LEARN FROM SOMEONE ELSE\***

Someone I know who values education and learning in school is:\_\_\_\_\_.  
Interview the person you named above and ask him or her following questions.

1. When you were a teenager, what did you plan to be when you “grew up”?
2. When you were a teenager, what was your educational plan (attend college, trade school, etc.)?
3. How have your experiences in high school affected your life so far?
4. How have your experiences in college affected your life so far?
5. Do you wish you had made a different educational plan? If yes, what do you wish you had done?



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## Post-interview Questions for You

My interviewee's answer that surprised me the most was:

Other answers or things that surprised me were:

The advice I would like to take away from interviewing this person is:

When I "grow up," I plan to be:

Doing well in school will affect that goal because:

My educational plan (attend college, trade school, etc.) is:

The experiences in high school that could affect the rest of my life are:

## WHO'S IN THE LEAD?

If you don't create a vision of your own, someone else will do it for you — friends, parents, the media, or someone else. And who knows if their interests are the same as yours? Unless you create your own vision of who and what you want to be, you will be quick to follow anyone who is willing to lead, even into things that won't get you very far.

## CRAFT YOUR OWN PERSONAL MISSION STATEMENT .



A Personal Mission Statement is like a personal credo or motto that states what your life is about. It is the blueprint for building your life. It is the map for life's journey. Since your destiny is yet to be decided, why not decide today to make it extraordinary and leave a lasting legacy?

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## DISCOVER YOUR TALENTS

An important part of developing a personal mission statement is discovering what you're good at. Everyone has a talent, gift, or something he or she is good at. The secret is figuring out what it is. Some talents attract a lot of attention, like being a great athlete or singer. Others may not grab as much attention but are just as important. Being skilled at listening, making people laugh, giving, forgiving, drawing, or just being nice are talents that make the world a better place. What are some of the talents you wrote for #10 of The Great Discovery worksheet?

## GET STARTED ON YOUR MISSION STATEMENT

There are as many ways to write a mission statement as there are people in the world. The important part is to write something inspires you — something that reminds you of your values, your standards, and the things you want to achieve in your life.

I will set a timer for five minutes and you will start writing your Personal Mission Statement. Write fast — don't stop to worry about or rewrite what you're writing. Just write down all the ideas that come to mind. Don't worry if it seems disjointed or untidy. If you can't think of what to write, write, "I can't think of anything" until something comes to you. Just keep writing!

Sample Mission Statement: (by Steven Strong)

Religion

Education

Succeeding

Productive

Exercise

Caring

Truthful

DISCOVER YOUR  
VALUES AND  
WRITE A MISSION

Now, revise your mission statement. When you are finished, write it on white computer paper. We will hang them around the classroom as a reminder all year!

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## WATCH OUT : AVOID LABELS

Labels are an ugly form of prejudice. When you label someone, you make unfair conclusions — often without truly knowing him or her first. Most of you are labeled at one time or another in life, but the danger comes when you start to believe the labels.

Labels are like paradigms. What you see is what you get. For instance, if you've been labeled as lazy, and you begin to believe it yourself, it becomes a self-fulfilling belief. You'll act out of the label. Just remember, you are not your labels.

## GO FOR THE GOAL

Goals are more specific than a mission statement. In fact, goals can help you break down your mission into bite-size pieces. A mission statement is what you want to accomplish; goals are how you're going to accomplish it.

Goals help you get where you want to go. Without goals, you will likely stray from your path and miss your destination. Goals help you stay on course and make sure you get where you're going in the shortest amount of time.

## TURN WEAKNESSES INTO STRENGTHS

How many times do you wish you could be someone else? Do you ever think thoughts like "If I only had her curly hair..." or "If I could only play football like him..." or "If I could only sing like that..."? Beginning with the End in Mind teaches that weaknesses can actually make you stronger. When you think you lack the physical, social, or mental gifts you want, just fight that much harder to reach your goals. And that uphill battle gives you qualities and strengths you couldn't develop any other way.

"Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will.

- Mohandas Gandhi



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## MAKE YOUR LIFE EXTRAORDINARY

Since your destiny is yet to be determined, why not make it extraordinary and leave a lasting legacy? You don't have to change the world to have a mission. You just need to take advantage of and seek out opportunities to be your best self.

“Only one thing has to change for us to know happiness in our lives:  
WHERE WE FOCUS OUR ATTENTION.” — Greg Anderson

## WHAT IS YOUR LEGACY?

The legacy I want to leave is:

Read the quote by Greg Anderson above. The place where I most focus my attention is:

The place I named in the question above is where I want to leave a legacy. True or false?

If false, I will start focusing my life on the following to leave the legacy I want to leave by:

### Baby Steps CHOOSE ONE OR TWO BABY STEPS YOU CAN DO TO BEGIN WITH THE END IN MIND

1. Determine the three most important skills you'll need to succeed in your career. Do you need to be more organized? Be more confident speaking in front of other people, have stronger writing skills?
2. Review your mission statement daily for 30 days (that's how long it takes to develop a habit). Let it guide you in all your decisions.
3. Look in the mirror and ask, "would I want to marry someone like me?" If not, work to develop the qualities you're lacking.
4. What is the crossroad you are facing in your life right now? In the long run, what is the best path to take?
5. Think about your goals. Have you put them in pen and written them down? If not, take time to do it. Remember, a goal not written is only a wish.
6. Identify a negative label others may have given you. Think up a few things you could do to change that label.
7. Go to the school guidance counselor and talk about career opportunities. Take an aptitude test that will help you evaluate your talents, abilities, and interests.

#### Sources:

Covey, Sean. *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*. New York: Fireside, 1998. Print.

Covey, Sean. *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens Personal Workbook*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2004. Print.