

Core Values



Know Thyself.

On the front of the Temple of Apollo at Delphi, legend has it, were inscribed the words "Know Thyself." In an age of intensive self-presentation, as we share selfies and Instagram our dinners out and post images from curated life moments, it may seem as though we are living in one of the most self-reflective ages in human history. But indeed, almost the opposite may be true. As we all find ways to live in the glare of a life where we are or can be observed in any moment, and as we curate presentation of ourselves for observation by others, we develop a more powerful "ourselves as others see us" lens.



Turn your gaze inward.

In other words, we cultivate -- intentionally or experientially - an "external locus of observation."

Focusing too heavily on what others are thinking and observing of us, whether by intention or by accident, can lead us far astray. It can lead us to lose contact with our deep inner wisdom, and cause us to forget our own purpose in life.

Your own life matters: your journey, your gifts and talents, and what you hope to accomplish in the world **matter**. You need to be sure you have the tools to come home to yourself, and to your core values.

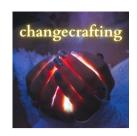


Identify your values.

One of the best ways you can re-center in your own knowledge of self is to do a **core values exercise**. This exercise will present you with an extensive list of value words. Set aside some quiet time, when you won't be interrupted, and really read through all the words carefully. Jot down the words that mean the most to you; the ones which you believe represent your most deeply held values, the ones you strive to live by -- or **want** to strive to live by.



Acceptance Accomplishment Accountability Accuracy Achievement Adaptability Alertness Altruism Ambition Amusement Assertiveness Attentive Awareness Balance Beauty Boldness Bravery Brilliance Calm Candor Capable Careful Certainty Challenge Charity Cleanliness Clear Clever Comfort Commitment Common sense Communication Community Compassion Competence Concentration Confidence Connection Consciousness Consistency Contentment Contribution Control Conviction Cooperation Courage Courtesy Creation Creativity Credibility Curiosity Decisive Dedication Dependability Determination Development Devotion Dignity Discipline Discovery Drive Effectiveness Efficiency Empathy Empower Endurance Energy Enjoyment Enthusiasm Equality Ethical Excellence Experience Exploration Expressive Fairness Family Famous Fearless Feelings Ferocious Fidelity Focus Foresight Fortitude Freedom Friendship Fun Generosity Genius Giving Goodness Grace Gratitude Greatness Growth Happiness Hard work Harmony Health Honesty Honor Hope Humility Humor Imagination Improvement Independence Individuality Innovation Inquisitive Insightful Inspiring Integrity Intelligence Intensity Intuitive Joy Justice Kindness Knowledge Lawful Leadership Learning Liberty Logic Love Loyalty Mastery Maturity Meaning Moderation Motivation Openness Optimism Order Organization Originality (cont.)



Passion Patience Peace Performance Persistence Playfulness
Poise Potential Power Present Productivity Professionalism
Prosperity Purpose Quality Realistic Reason Recognition
Recreation Reflective Respect Responsibility Restraint Resultsoriented Reverence Rigor Risk Satisfaction Security Self-reliance
Selfless Sensitivity Serenity Service Simplicity Sincerity
Skillfulness Smart Solitude Spirit Spirituality Spontaneous
Stability Status Stewardship Strength Structure Success
Support Surprise Sustainability Talent Teamwork Temperance
Thankful Thorough Thoughtful Timeliness Tolerance Toughness
Traditional Tranquility Transparency Trust Trustworthy Truth
Understanding Uniqueness Unity Valor Victory Vigor Vision
Vitality Wealth Welcoming Winning Wisdom Wonder

After you have chosen your words, take a little time with them. Write a sentence or two about why this is one of your core values, and how you live it in the world. See if you can come up with concrete examples of ways you live the value. You want to show yourself how and why this is one of **your** core values. You are painting a picture of your interior landscape with words and stories. Feel free to be more creative, as well — if you are moved to poetry or painting, collage work or anything else, explore!



Core Values MindMap

Now that you have your values, create a MindMap. In the center, write your name or draw yourself or an image that represents the "real you." There's no wrong way to represent yourself, so have fun!

Around the center hub of YOU, write out your **SIX most central core values.** If you want to, feel free to add additional spokes out from each value, where you list a few examples of how you live that value in your thinking and actions.

