

# SELF ASSESSMENT ASSIGNMENT

This is a very tough assignment. Take it very seriously, and put a good deal of careful thought into it. Stretch your brain beyond your present thinking about yourself and your abilities and future. Think in terms of what you are really capable of if you get excited about it, and are willing to commit fully to it. Please read the assignment, and then provide what is asked for. There is no page limit, up or down, to this assignment. You are doing this assignment for you, and for me as a secondary target.

Despite the fact that we study things like the need for strategic and long term planning in business, we seldom practice what we preach in the most important business of our lives, our careers. We tend to have vague, haphazard, generalized thoughts about what life will hold for us, but we don't take the time to sit down and think about what we are really all about, and what we **SHOULD** be doing in life. The career paths we set out upon are often determined by outside, and relatively unimportant influences, such as our parents, what a friend is doing in life, what interviewer shows up on campus, or happens to like us and invites us to a second interview, or other such relatively unimportant details. In short, the most important single activity in our lives, our career, is often plotted and determined by totally unimportant factors and influences outside of ourselves. You must not allow that to happen. You, and you alone must control your destiny!!!!

This assignment can have serious impact on your life, don't just do it as a required assignment for Kiesner's class, or for an "A". Do it for YOU, and because it can start you thinking along the right track about your future. If you approach this assignment from that viewpoint, it will be fun, and even easy, for you will really get into it, and that will show. Be honest with yourself, and me! I am the only one who will read this report, and I will keep it totally private between us.

## PLEASE FOLLOW THE SUGGESTED FORMAT AND SCHEDULE BELOW

### FRONT PAGE

The first page of the paper you turn in will include only the following:

1. Name
2. Course number
3. Date submitted

Please **DO NOT USE COVERS**. Use normal writing methods, **including the use of HEADINGS AND SUBHEADING FOR EACH SECTION**, proper English, grammar, spelling and no typos. This is of great importance in everything you do. The work you submit is, **truly**, a portrait of you and your talents! Sloppy work gives a real message! Please try to follow the format I have provided in this assignment summary, wherever possible.

**I REPEAT AGAIN, PLEASE USE HEADINGS AND SUBHEADINGS, ACCORDING TO THE SECTIONS I HAVE ASKED FOR IN THIS PROJECT.**

**DOUBLE SPACE YOUR WRITING IN THE PAPER, PLEASE!!!!!!**

**PLEASE PROOFREAD YOUR OWN WORK CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU TURN IT IN. STUPID AND CARELESS SPELLING AND TYPO AND GRAMMAR ERRORS REALLY DETRACT FROM THE QUALITY OF YOUR BRAIN AND YOUR THINKING. DON'T SHOOT YOURSELF IN THE FOOT BY MAKING DUMB MISTAKES OF CARELESSNESS.**

### BACKGROUND

**“WORK EXPERIENCE”** - Briefly list your work experience from birth to the present. Provide the **earliest in outline form**, only discuss the most critically important learning experiences in any detail. What have you done that prepares you to be a winner in life, and have a successful career. Don't be modest, and don't you dare say you have no experience. You do, list it, and discuss briefly those entries that have real impact. These experiences could well include things like babysitting, lemonade stands, volunteer work at social entrepreneur establishments, etc.

## **A SENSE OF SELF**

To survive in the world, and achieve a major impact, we must have a strong “sense of self”, a feeling and comfortable understanding of who we are, and what our power and talents are, realistically, that will propel us towards achievement and impact in the future. Who are you? What makes you unique, powerful, interesting, good, and capable of being a major leader of the wonderful future world? What are your core values – what makes you say to yourself, “gee, I am a neat person who WILL have an impact in the future, and **I AM VERY PROUD OF WHO I AM!**”

## **THE FUTURE**

LIFE GOALS - Briefly discuss your goals in life with regard to your **career path**, in the following three categories. Be **specific**, not vague and generalized - I want you to seriously look at what makes you tick and what you **CAN** and **SHOULD** expect from life, and what you want to achieve from your efforts in this world. Please note this section applies particularly to your career goals and hoped for achievements in society. Of much less importance, for the purposes of this paper, is how many children you have, or what a wonderful spouse you marry, or other such details. Those items are nice, and should be a real part of your future career, but please, for this paper, concentrate your thinking on your career achievements and goals and targets. The critical factor here, in this paper, is your career, and your impact on the world, and where you will go. Please do not waste my time and yours with other incidentals, talk about the critical subject of this paper - the path you will take through life that will allow you to use your talents, and direct and control your own life. I consider this section as the major thrust of this paper. Other sections flow from it, and support it. Please do not insult yourself, and me, by blowing the assignment off by saying “duh, gee, I don't know where I am going, but I am sure something wonderful will happen.” Think and write realistically about what you are going to **MAKE HAPPEN!**

- 1. Short Term - the next five years**
- 2. Intermediate - the next 25 years**
- 3. Long Term - the next fifty to seventy years**

**THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF THIS LITTLE PROJECT – don't blow it off, agonize over where you are going, and get a real fuzzy vision of YOU in the future! This is a key element of this paper – and it should be of critical importance for you. There is a big hint here, don't try to slip through this section without doing some deep soul searching about who you are, what you are capable of, how you should start your path, and where your path might take you.**

## **IF I COULD DREAM**

**If you knew you could not fail, what would your dream job/career/purpose/passion be in life.** Disregard any potential barriers such as education, or anything else that might, in real life, prevent you from getting this job. You can assume you have the requirements for this job, and you can ignore all such mundane things as money. In short, assume nothing would stop you from getting this job, and nothing would hold you back from being successful at it. Please be serious here – no jokes. Also explain why this would be your dream job.

## SUCCESSSES

List and discuss your greatest accomplishments in life to date. **FIRST** tell about your single most important victory or achievement in life that you are the most proud of, in some detail. How has it impacted your thinking, what did you learn from it, and how will it help you achieve your future success. Then in descending order briefly discuss one or two other achievements you consider very important. Please think currently, and in your recent history, **do not** go back and tell me your greatest victory in life to date was when you won the spelling bee in third grade, or when you hit a double in little league play that won the game. We are talking here about your more recent successes and victories that will have true impact on your life, your dreams, and your achievements.

Think carefully about this, and I think you will surprise yourself with the quality and quantity of the successes you have already had. Remember, you are the cream of the crop, or you wouldn't be here. That may sound a bit elitist, but you must remember and accept the fact that you are among the very best. You will, therefore, have accomplished a good deal! Tell me about it. Of more importance, recognize it in yourself. We often overlook or downplay our achievements because we were taught from childhood to be modest – be modest, but also in your heart recognize and rejoice over your wonderful victories and let them shape and impact your future!

## FAILURES

Failure, in my estimation, is not a negative. It is merely a stepping stone in life, and one of the most potent teaching tools there is, if used in a positive manner. Briefly (I repeat, briefly) list your greatest failures in life, and how they impacted what you have done in life since then (what lessons you learned in other words). Again, list your **greatest single most wonderful and glorious failure** first, the one magnificent failure that has had the most impact on your life. Again, stay in recent years. While it may have had an impact, I am not really looking for what you did in kindergarten here.

Don't be shy, this is only between you and me, and I won't tell! Don't just look at the failure from a negative viewpoint, look at it from a positive attitude, and learn from it. Forget your ego here, be honest, let it out! Tell me about the most wonderful failures you have had, and what you learned from them, and how they will impact what you will, **AND CAN** do in the future.

## WHY ARE YOU HERE?

Please give some very serious thinking and effort here as to why you are on this earth. I somehow don't think any of us could be so arrogant as to think that the sole purpose of our being is to have pleasure and enjoyment for ourselves, only. What do you feel your purpose in life is? What is the meaning of your being on this earth? I am not really looking for a religious treatise here, tho that may be a powerful part of your thinking.

In short, from a **CAREER** and **IMPACT ON THE WORLD** viewpoint, just **briefly** tell me why you think you are here! We seldom give very much thought to this, and yet it should be the real essence of our being. It must play a major role in where we are going, and the paths **we choose** to follow in life. Success is not an accident. Those who achieve true success and impact in life usually do so because they have a comprehension of who they are, where they are, and why they are here. They have a **vision** of themselves in the role they will play in the future – then they fulfill that vision. You must gain that clearly defined sense of self! It is the critical factor that will determine if you fulfill your potential in life, and are a giver, rather than a taker in society. Give this some very serious and critical thought, please.

## NOW WHAT ON EARTH DO I DO

In a bit of a twist of the above thought stimulator, consider this situation. You are merrily going along through life. Life is good. Oooooops! The doctor just told you that **you have one year or less to live!** Now what would you do? What would become important to you, how would you conduct your last months? What would you change in how you think and operate? I don't mean to be maudlin and depressing – this is a serious question, I have faced this situation three times in my life (goes to show you doctors don't know what they are talking about sometimes), and it had a profound impact on me, how I think, and what is important to me. Think on how it would impact you – who you are, what you would do. Don't you dare tell me you would get stoned and go on a twelve month binge until you died! You are better than that.

## **WHO ARE YOUR HEROES**

As we begin setting our course for the future, and embarking on the initial path towards our goals, it is critically important that we have real and meaningful **HEROES** that give us inspiration and focus on what we want and can do in life. If you prefer, call them **ROLE MODELS**, who inspire us, motivate us, and guide us towards reaching our potential, capturing our power, and truly impacting the world we will operate within.

Briefly identify one or two genuine, certified, undeniable **HEROES** for you that make you sit up and say **WOW!!!!** Please identify why they are your **HEROES**, and what impact they have had upon you in propelling you towards your wonderful future success! By the way, often our real heroes that have a true impact upon us are not celebrities or well-known people. Think about the person that has propelled you the most into molding and shaping yourself to be a person of real, positive impact in the future! It would be appreciated if you would talk about real people who are able to directly impact you - while Babe Ruth was a neat guy, I would appreciate your talking about someone that has had a solid and direct impact upon you. Also, don't tell me about some dumb rap crap rock band, or someone like that. I want to hear about the people who bring out the deep seated power and strength you have within you to have a real and meaningful impact upon the world.

## **YIPPEE!!!!!!!!!! YOU MADE IT BIG IN LIFE!!!!**

### **WHAT WILL YOUR IMPACT ON THE WORLD BE FROM A SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY VIEWPOINT?????**

Fantastic, you are now fabulously successful beyond your wildest dreams, from both a financial and economic viewpoint and a personal happiness concept. Being successful gives you **POWER!** **Isn't it wonderful.**

How will you use this power to truly help the world? What would you do to cause improvement and change in the world with the wealth and power you achieved? In short, many believe that when one gains tremendous personal success, they have an obligation to make life better for others.

In short, in my opinion once you have made it over the tall and tough wall of life, and have achieved personal success, I think you are **OBLIGATED** to toss the rope back over the wall to help the next folks trying to win in life.

What will be your pet "**social responsibility**" project and interest once you become a winner? I would hope it would be something slightly more substantial than writing an annual check for \$100 to the United Way and putting \$5 a week into the collection plate.

Briefly, but specifically write about what your dream impact on the world would be. Make it real, and realistic, not just some pipe dream from smoking too much of that funny (and really dumb) stuff!

# YOUR OBITUARY

You are **ONE HUNDRED TWENTY (120)** years old, and have just died. How sad. I want you to write your obituary as you realistically expect it might appear at age 120. Make it a narration of what you realistically might have accomplished in this wonderful life, and what you will be remembered for, if you follow the career path you are charting now. Be reasonable, think in terms of what you really can, and probably will, accomplish in life if you put the proper effort and dedication into it – namely 110% effort.

Please **DO NOT** include details about your wife or husband and kids, and stuff about how much people will miss you, or where the funeral service will be, or how you died, etc. We will assume you will all die while doing something thrilling and daring, like skydiving from a rocket ship over Mount Everest on a mile long bungee cord! This is not the key material I want here, so forget about including how you died. I want “future think” here on your effect on the world, and how the world will remember you. Put down a serious, **DETAILED** obit that well might appear in a newspaper many years from now after you have had your impact on the world.

**DO INCLUDE** a specific narration about what you will have accomplished in life from a career viewpoint, and an impact on society. What influence will you have had on life, your career, and the world? Realistically assess your potential, the mark you can, truthfully, make on the world if you truly commit to it. This should summarize your dreams, the fuzzy view you have of yourself as a real leader in the world. Don't just put in blue sky BS. Make it real – make it be something that you can and should achieve, if you want it.

It is expected, obviously, that what you include here will have a **direct tie-in** with what you discussed in your goals section.

We seldom set long term goals for ourselves. This exercise is designed to force you to think in terms of what life can hold for you, and what you can offer to life. Students and those in their early career years seldom give much thought to drawing up their **road map of life**, and where they are going, and what their ultimate goals in life are. You tend to be thinking in the now, only about the tremendous demands and strains of being a student, or building your early career, and about whatever jobs you might have in the next few years. **Go beyond that in doing your obituary.** Draw your road map of life by using this obituary as the **summary** of what you expect to be known for at the end of your life. Describe the essence of your life as you think it really might unfold. Yes it will be a fuzzy picture, especially in your later years, but **without a fuzzy picture of where we are going, and some focus on what we can be, we will be nothing**, compared to what we could have been.

**I WOULD STRONGLY URGE YOU TO READ AN ACTUAL OBITUARY OR TWO ON SOME REAL WINNERS IN LIFE WHO HAVE HAD AN IMPACT, TO GET AN IDEA OF HOW A REAL, WELL DONE, DETAILED OBIT MIGHT READ – FOR SOMEONE WHO HAS HAD A REAL IMPACT IN LIFE – NOT JUST SOME “ORDINARY” PERSON! YOU CAN AND SHOULD BE EXTRAORDINARY!**

I should warn you, most students just blow this section off, on their obituary – why, I do not know. Don't let yourself fall prey to that problem, and ruin the impact and value of the paper in the end. One might suspect that the last image or impression the reader gets of a paper has a fair amount of impact, thus make sure your obit is powerful. Think this section through carefully, have a powerful ending, not a wimpy collapse because you are afraid to really dream of what you truly could be – and **WILL BE.**

## EPITAPH

Now summarize the totality of what you expect your life to mean by providing me with a **VERY BRIEF**

one line epitaph. Make it **FOUR TO EIGHT WORDS, OR LESS**, maximum. Put down here what you would like carved on your tombstone. **Make it count.**

What are the few words future generations will have to note your having been in this world, and to remember and judge you by. This is a difficult part of this assignment, put some serious thought into it - you want it to represent your life and say a lot about what you are, and what you stood for, and what you achieved with your talents. It must summarize what you are (were) and what you achieved in life!

**PLEASE HAVE THIS EPITAPH SUMMARIZE YOUR IMPACT ON THE BUSINESS WORLD, YOUR CAREER, AND SOCIETY.** Please don't waste these incredibly important **few** words on cutesie pie silly things that describe your partying ability, or your drinking capacity, or your sexual prowess! This is a serious effort to summarize the core of your existence. These few words must have **SUBSTANCE**, and truly summarize what you were all about.

Make sure this epitaph is a **CLEAR AND CONCISE SUMMARY OF WHAT YOU ARE AND WILL BE ALL ABOUT IN LIFE.**

### **FINAL COMMENTS OR ADDITIONS**

This is an optional section. If you wish, add anything else you want that might be appropriate to this assignment. Was there anything that was missed that is important to you? Any other comments you might want to make?

### **THE KEY WORD**

Your final, FINAL, **FINAL** assignment – on a **last, single, empty piece of paper**, in fairly large bold print, put the **ONE, SINGLE WORD THAT WOULD BEST DESCRIBE YOU, AND YOUR POWER TO HAVE AN IMPACT IN THE WORLD.** If you do more than one word, you will get no credit for this section. What single word sums up the absolute core of your existence!

**HAVE FUN EXPLORING YOU,  
AND CLARIFYING YOUR FUZZY  
VISION OF WHO YOU ARE,  
AND WHO YOU CAN BE!**

Make this paper be a wonderful **PAINTING OR PORTRAIT** of where you have been, who you are, where you are going, who you will be, and the impact you will have on life. Will this effort be a masterpiece that shows the writer has a powerful comprehension of who they are and where **they will take life**? Or will it be a boooooooring, half-hearted attempt to barely fulfill an assignment for class and a grade? **This paper is for you – make it count like nothing else you have ever done before!**

**Don't run and hide from the issues raised in this assignment!** Embrace them, think them through, and make this paper work for you as an instrument that helps you **take charge** of where you are going.

**You own the quality of this effort – will it be stunningly good**, and an effort that will help you to achieve your future and your destiny? **Or will it be a weak, lilly-livered, half-hearted effort** from a weak-kneed chicken who wants somebody else to control where they go in life, and is afraid to accept the fact that they must take the action needed to make sure they achieve their destiny and power. **The decision IS yours.**

There is no limit to the length of this assignment – tho I have flunked students who turned in 5 pages (if it takes me 7 pages to tell you what I want, how can you do it in 5 pages), and one who turned in nearly 300 pages of pure junk that was not his thinking – just chapters lifted from books.

On the following page is the grade sheet I will use to assess the effort you put into producing this assignment. SURPRISE! It includes all the sections I asked for! Plus a few more.

Surprise!  
Surprise!

**HINT! HINT! HINT!**

**READ IT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

**DO IT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

***SELF ASSESSMENT PAPER ANALYSIS***

| <b>CRITICAL FACTORS</b>          | <b>OUCH</b> | <b>D</b> | <b>C</b> | <b>B</b> | <b>A</b> | <b>WOW</b> |
|----------------------------------|-------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------------|
| <b>SOLID BACKGROUND ANALYSIS</b> |             |          |          |          |          |            |

