

Using Your Strengths to Achieve Success: Belief

You have a certain core values that are unchanging; out of these values emerges a defined purpose for your life. Your talent is valuable because it produces the motivation for you to work hard, excel, and achieve. Your set of beliefs does more than energize you--it is the basis for developing a meaningful life.

Applying to Academics

General Academic Life

- Write an academic mission statement for yourself. Integrate your core values, such as leaving the world better than you found it, curing AIDS, ending violence, or affirming the dignity of each human being.
- Discover ways to weave your core values into routine classroom assignments. Write and speak about topics directly related to your beliefs.
- Read about individuals who stood up for their convictions in the face of resistance. Determine who inspired these people to dedicate their lives to great and noble causes.

Study Techniques

- Assess whether you are allocating enough time to classes, projects and assignments that add meaning to your life.
- Suggest alternative topics for reading and research to your professors. Match your preferred assignments to one or more of your core values.

Relationships

- Tell your classmates and professors about the ideas, causes, and projects you are most passionate about.

Extracurricular Activities

- Consider running for a campus office. Build your campaign platform on values-orientated issues that matter greatly to you. Inform potential voters about what you stand for and why.
- Practice speaking a foreign language by helping a refugee family adapt to their new country and its customs.

Applying to Major/Career Path

- Research opportunities in helping professions such as medicine, law enforcement, social work, refugee relocation, teaching, ministry and search-and-rescue. Talk with people who provide services to individuals in need. Interview those who supervise them.



CAREER SERVICES

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CAREER SERVICES

Apply to Job Search

In the Job Search

- Your belief helps you filter jobs according to how you fit with the employer's sense of purpose. You already know the company's mission and values, so you are committed to the company when you apply. Thematic things will likely appear on your resume (community service, politics, etc.) in large quantities.
- Search for careers that match your values since these are very important for your career happiness and success. Careers in the helping professions may be ones to which you are naturally drawn.
- Tips: Identify your core values and search for institutions which share the same with you. It could be helpful to interview people who share your values and/or are in occupations of interest to see whether they would actually be a good match.
- In the job interviews you often inspire and speak in inspirational, passionate terms. By conveying how your values match those of the company, you demonstrate how you can contribute to the company's success and be motivated each day.
- Tips: Sometimes your passionate way of thinking can come across harsh or judgemental. Keep yourself in check because you never know the personal values the interviewer may hold.

Apply to Careers

In the New Position

- Your belief or commitment to an organization's mission should not overshadow the actual work you have been hired to do.
- Remember to maintain balance when sharing opinions or reactions to a particular topic of conversation.

In the Interview

- You can highlight how your values define purpose driven attitude and your approach to work. It is that sense of purpose which provides motivation and the desire to succeed.