

Goals!

How to get everything you want faster than you ever thought possible

Introduction

Success is goals and all else is commentary. This is the great discovery throughout all of human history. Your life only begins to become a great life when you clearly identify what it is that you want, make a plan to achieve it and then work on that plan every single day.

“The primary reason for failure is that people do not develop new plans to replace those plans that didn’t work.” (Napoleon Hill)

The three turning points in my life were these: First, I discovered that I was responsible for my life, and for everything that happened to me. I learned that this life is not a rehearsal for something else. This is the real thing.

In every study of successful people, the acceptance of personal responsibility seems to be the starting point. Before that, nothing happens. After you accept complete responsibility, your whole life begins to change.

The second turning point for me, which came when I was 24 years old, was my discovery of goals. Without really knowing what I was doing, I sat down and made a list of 10 things I wanted to accomplish in the foreseeable future. I promptly lost the list. But 30 days later, my whole life had changed. Almost every goal on my list had already been achieved or partially achieved.

The third turning point in my life came when I discovered that “You can learn anything you need to learn to accomplish any goal you can set for yourself.” No one is smarter than you and no one is better than you. All business skills, sales skills and moneymaking skills are learnable. Everyone who is good in any area today was once poor in

that area. The top people in every field were at one time not even in that field and didn't even know that that field existed. And what hundreds of thousands of other people have done, you can do as well.

The Goal-Setting Process

1. Decide exactly what you want in every key area of your life.

Start off by *Idealizing*. Imagine that there are no limitations on what you can be, have or do. Imagine that you have all the time and money, all the friends and contacts, all the education and experience that you need to accomplish any goal you can set for yourself.

Imagine that you could wave a magic wand and make your life perfect in each of the four key areas of life. If your life was perfect in each area, what would it look like?

1. Income – how much do you want to earn this year, next year and five years from today?
2. Family – what kind of a lifestyle do you want to create for yourself and your family?
3. Health – how would your health be different if it was perfect in every way?
4. Net Worth – how much do you want to save and accumulate in the course of your working lifetime?

Three Goal Method – in less than 30 seconds, write down your three most important goals in life, right now. Write quickly.

Whatever your answer to this “Quick List Method” way of writing three goals it is probably an accurate picture of what you really want in life.

2. **Write it down.** Your goals must be in writing. They must be clear, specific, detailed and measurable. You must write out your goals as if you were placing an order for your goal to be manufactured in a factory at a great distance. Make your description clear and detailed in every sense.

Only 3% of adults have written goals, and everyone else works for them.

3. **Set a deadline.** Your subconscious mind uses deadlines as “forcing systems” to drive you, consciously and unconsciously toward achieving your goal on schedule. If your goal is big enough, set sub-deadlines. If you want to achieve financial independence, you may set a 10 or 20-year goal, and then break it down, year by year, so that you know how much you have to save and invest each year.

If for some reason you don’t achieve your goal by the deadline, simply set a new deadline. There are no unreasonable goals, only unreasonable deadlines.

4. **Identify the obstacles that you will have to overcome to achieve your goal.** Why aren’t you already at your goal?

The Theory of Constraints – there is always one limiting factor or constraint that sets the *speed* at which you achieve your goal. What is it for you?

The 80/20 Rule applies to constraints. Fully 80% of the reasons that are holding you back from achieving your goal are inside yourself. They are the lack of a skill, a quality or a body of knowledge. Only 20% of the reasons you are not achieving your goal are on the outside. Always start with yourself.

5. **Identify the knowledge, information and skills you will need to achieve your goal.** Especially, identify the skills that you will have to develop to be in the top 10% of your field.

Greatest Discovery: Your *weakest* key skill sets the height of your income and your success. You can make more progress by going to work on the one skill that is holding you back more than any other.

Key Question: “What one skill, if you developed and did it in an excellent fashion, would have the greatest positive impact on your life?”

What one skill, if you developed and did it consistently, in an excellent fashion, would help you the most to achieve your most important goal? Whatever the skill, write it down, make a plan and work on it every single day.

6. **Identify the people whose help and cooperation you will require to achieve your goal.** Make a list of every person in your life that you will have to work with or work around to achieve your goal. Start with the members of your family, whose cooperation and support you will require. List your boss, coworkers and subordinates. Especially, identify the customers whose support you will need to sell enough of your product or service to make the kind of money that you want.

Once you have identified the key people whose help you will require, ask yourself this question, “What’s in it for them?” Be a “go-giver” rather than a “go-getter.”

To achieve big goals you will have to have the help and support of lots of people. One key person at a certain time and place in your life will make all the difference. The most successful people are those who build and maintain the largest networks of other people whom they can help and who can help them in return.

7. **Make a list of everything you will have to do to achieve your goal.** Combine the obstacles that you will have to overcome, the knowledge and skills you will have to develop, and the people whose cooperation you will require. List every single step that

you can think of that you will have to follow to ultimately achieve your goal.

As you think of new items, add them to your list until your list is complete.

When you make out a list of all the things you will need to do to achieve your goal, you begin to see that this goal is far more attainable than you thought. "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." You can build the biggest wall in the world one brick at a time.

8. **Organize your list into a plan.** You organize this list by arranging the steps that you have identified by *sequence* and *priority*.

Sequence – what do you have to do before you do something else, and in what order?

Priority – what is more important and what is less important?

The 80/20 Rule says that 80% of your results will come from 20% of your activities.

The 20/80 Rule says that the first 20% of time that you spend planning your goal and organizing your plan will be worth 80% of the time and effort required to achieve the goal. Planning is very important.

9. **Make a plan.** Organize your list into a series of steps from the beginning all the way through to the completion of your goal.

When you have a Goal and a Plan, you increase the likelihood of achieving your goals by 10 times, by 1000%!

Plan each day, week and month in advance.

Plan each month at the beginning of the month.

Plan each week the weekend before.

Plan each day the evening before.

The more careful and detailed you are when you plan your activities, the more you will accomplish in less time. The rule is that each minute spent in planning saves 10 minutes in execution. This means that you get a 1000% return on your investment of time in planning your days, weeks and months in advance.

10. **Select your number one, most important task for each day.** Set priorities on your list using the 80/20 Rule.

Ask yourself this question: "If I could only do one thing on this list, which one activity is most important?" Whatever you answer to that question, put a number "1" next to that activity.

Then, ask yourself, "If I could only do one other task on this list, which one task would be the most valuable use of my time?" Then write a number "2" next to that task.

Keep asking this question, "What is the most valuable use of my time on this list?" until you have your seven top tasks, organized by sequence and priority.

Here is another question you can ask, "If I could only do one thing all day long, which one activity would contribute the most value to my work and to my goals?"

Focus and Concentration are the keys to success. Focus means that you know exactly what it is that you want to accomplish and concentration requires that you dedicate yourself to doing only those things that move you toward your goal.

11. **Develop the habit of self-discipline.** Once you have decided on your most important task, resolve to concentrate single-mindedly on that one task until it is 100% complete.

Your ability to select your most important task and then to work on it single mindedly, without diversion or distraction, will double and triple the quality and quantity of your output and your productivity.

Single Handling is one of the most powerful of all time management techniques. This means that when you start with the task, you avoid all distractions and stay with that task until it is done. Once you have developed the habit of completing your tasks, you will earn two and three and even five times as much as other people.

12. **Practice visualization on your goals.** Create clear, vivid, exciting, emotional pictures of your goals as if they were already a reality.

See your goal as though it were already achieved. Imagine yourself enjoying the accomplishment of this goal. If it is a car, imagine yourself driving this car. If it is a vacation, see yourself on the vacation already. If it is a beautiful home that you want, see yourself living in a beautiful home.

In visualizing, take a few moments to create the emotions that would accompany the successful achievement of your goal. A mental picture combined with an emotion has an enormous impact on your subconscious and your superconscious mind.

Visualization is perhaps the most powerful faculty available to you to help you achieve your goals faster than you ever thought possible.

When you use a combination of clear goals, combined with visualization and emotionalization, you activate your *superconscious mind*. Your superconscious mind then solves every problem on the way to your goal. Your superconscious

mind activates the Law of Attraction and begins attracting into your life people, circumstances, ideas and resources that will help you to achieve your goals even faster.

13. **Goal-Setting Exercise**

Take a clean sheet of paper and write the word “Goals” at the top of the page along with today’s date.

Discipline yourself to write out at least 10 goals that you would like to accomplish in the next year, or in the foreseeable future.

Begin each goal with the word “I.” Only you can use the word “I.” Follow the word “I” with an action verb that acts as a command from your conscious mind to your subconscious mind.

Describe your goals in the present tense, as though they had already been achieved. If your goal is to earn a certain amount of money in a certain year, you would say, “I earn this number of dollars by the end of this year.”

If your goal is to get a new car, you would say, “I drive such and such a new car by such and such a date.”

Finally, when you write down your goals, always write them in the positive tense. Instead of saying, “I will quit smoking,” you would say, “I am a non-smoker.”

Always state your goals as though they were already a reality, as though you had already accomplished them. This activates your subconscious and superconscious minds to change your external reality so it is consistent with your inner commands.

14. **Decide upon your major definite purpose.** Once you have written out a list of 10 goals, ask yourself this question, “If I could wave a magic wand and achieve any goal on this list

within 24 hours, which one goal would have the greatest positive impact on my life?"

Whatever your answer to that question, put a circle around that goal. Then, transfer the goal to the top of a clean sheet of paper.

1. Write it down clearly and in detail.
2. Set a deadline on your goal and set sub deadlines if necessary.
3. Identify the obstacles that you will have to overcome to achieve your goal, and identify the most important one, internal or external.
4. Identify the knowledge and skills you will need to achieve your goal, and the most important skill that you will have to become excellent in.
5. Identify the people whose help and cooperation you will require, and think about what you can do to *deserve* their help.
6. Make a list of everything you will have to do to achieve your goal. Add to the list as you think of new things to do.
7. Organize your list by sequence and priority, by what you have to do first, and by what is most important.
8. Make a plan by organizing your list into steps from the first to the last, and then resolve to take action on your plan, every single day.
9. Plan your goal in terms of the activities that you will have to engage in to achieve it, daily, weekly and monthly, in advance.

10. Set priorities on your list and identify the most important thing that you can do every single day to move most rapidly toward your goal.
11. Discipline yourself to concentrate single-mindedly on the most important thing that you can do today until it is 100% complete. Practice single-handling with every major task.

Conclusion

Resolve in advance that no matter what happens, you will never give up. Persistence is self-discipline in action. Each time you persist and overcome the inevitable failures and disappointments you will experience, you become stronger and better. You develop stronger and deeper character. You increase your self-esteem and self-confidence.

Your goal is to eventually become “Unstoppable.”

Decide exactly what you want, write it down, make a plan, and work on it every single day. If you do this over and over again until it becomes a habit, you will accomplish more in the next few weeks and months than many people accomplish in several years. Begin today.