



Your leadership potential

Connecting with your purpose and desired profile to create a 5 year career strategy

Welcome

A good career strategy gives you the clarity to figure out what impact you want to have through your work, the motivation to push through the hard times, and a pathway to achieving your goals, in work and in life.

This clarity can then inform the projects you take on (and the ones you don't), the roles you apply for (and the ones you turn down), and the skills, experience and contacts you need to cultivate to fulfil your full potential.

The endgame is a career and life you love where you're fully expressing your skills and talents, and having the impact you were born to make, with the resilience required to push through adversity.

In the context of Lift, your career strategy provides a focusing document for conversations with your sponsor about how they can best support your career potential.

As the model below captures, we're going to craft a career strategy that is deeply anchored in your purpose and supports your leadership

profile. To support that end, this workbook comprises stacks of self-reflection questions to work through before we meet in October.

Please dedicate a few hours to luxuriate in the impact you can have in the world. You're all in important roles and on impressive career trajectories in one of the most influential industries in the world. You owe it to yourself and others to really dig deep on what this means for the work you will do and how you will balance that with the life you want to lead.

Enjoy the process! I can't wait to see what you come up with.



Yolanda Beattie
Director

Our approach to cultivating your leadership potential



Purpose

Becoming clear about the impact you want to have through the work you do is at the heart of building a career you love. Loving what you do can become a powerful life force that, when balanced well, creates meaning and supports our wellbeing.

Discovering your leadership purpose is also another way of elevating your consciousness. When we reflect on what brings us joy and what doesn't, we explore our intentions, values, motivations, skills and talents, as well as fears and insecurities. New insights and mental models emerge that expand our perspective, allowing us to see and act on new possibilities.

We have structured this reflection in three stages:

1. Learning from your past
2. Connecting with the present
3. Defining your purpose to shape your future

The following self-reflection questions and activities invite you to go deep and think big. They have been drawn from a range of wonderful sources, which are all detailed if you want to dig into these references further.

Grab a tea or coffee, or wine, and enjoying spending the time with your inner-self.

Discovering your purpose



Learning from your past

The best stuff

The memorable accomplishments or experiences that have shaped your life and your leadership

This exercise is based on the work of Jim Warner and was sourced from The Conscious Leadership Group. In this exercise you will identify and then describe eight specific accomplishments or experiences across your entire life that you:

- Enjoyed doing (it was fun and satisfying)
- Believe you did well (you provided high quality)

These may be related to work, home, leisure, projects, or relationships. Things to keep in mind:

- Focus on the highlights in your life, regardless of when they occurred. Perhaps all your memorable experiences occurred before you were twenty years old, or after you were married. You don't need to spread them out.
- Identify what was important to you, not what other people might think was important.
- Relate specific achievement experiences, not general ones.

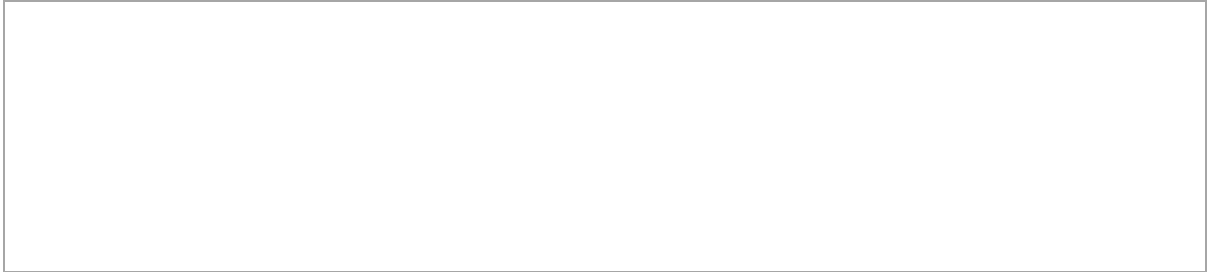
Write a short summary statement in the table a few pages over about each of the eight achievements or experiences:

- How did you get involved?
- Elaborate on what you did.
- What was particularly enjoyable, fulfilling, or satisfying?
- What skills, abilities or talents did you use?

What was the achievement or experience and how did you get involved?	What did you do?	What did you most enjoy?	What skills or talents did you use? How does your personality profile reflect these?

Look at your notes.

Do you see any common threads? (ie being in the public eye, adventure, diversity, newness, enduring relationships, leadership, risk taking, troubleshooting, giving, selling or motivating, seeing other people grow from your mentoring, a tough task you addressed and conquered, creative acts, altruism).

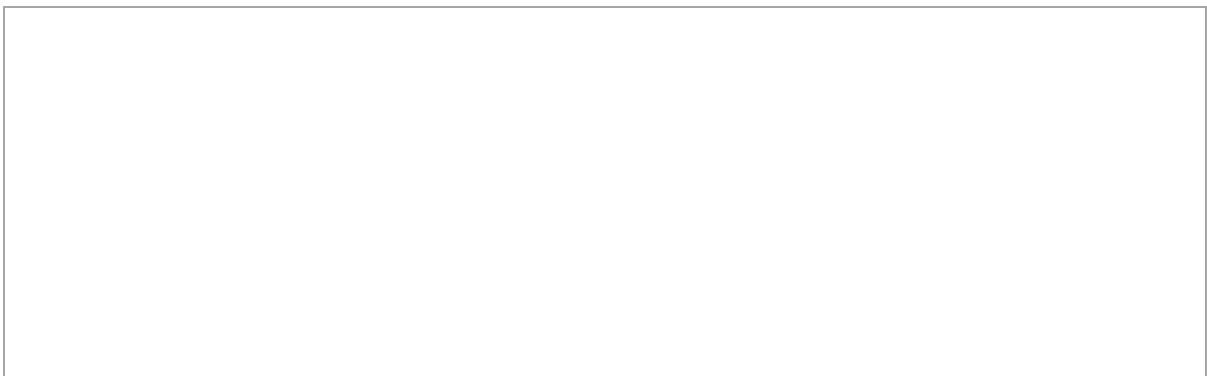
A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the user to write down common threads identified in their notes.

From these common threads, make a first pass at naming what you believe are your gifts. (ie inspiration, leadership, dealing with the power brokers of the world, serving the downtrodden, intuition, relationship building, intensity, ability to focus, decision-making, conflict resolution, planting seeds, nurturing small plants, harvesting the crop).

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the user to write down their initial naming of gifts based on the common threads.

You may also consider sharing your eight experiences with others and asking for their reflection on the themes they hear.

How you can integrate more of the best stuff into your work and life.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the user to write down how they can integrate the best stuff into their work and life.

Connecting with your present

Personal vision review

The following questions invite you to review your present and have been adapted from Stephen Covey's 7 Habits of Highly Effective People.

What am I doing right now with my life. Does it make me happy? Do I feel fulfilled?

What do I keep gravitating toward? Is it different from what I am currently doing?

What of my best stuff activities that I identified in the earlier exercises still bring me satisfaction? Do these things still bring me satisfaction? Am I still doing any of them?

What interests me most right now?

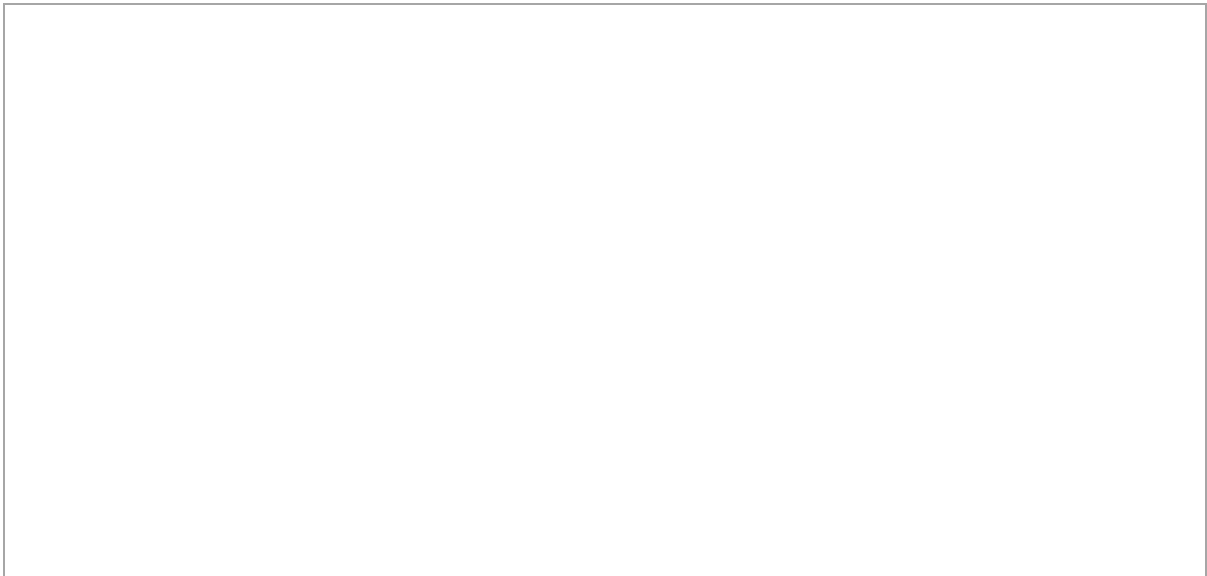
What fills my soul?

Why I choose leadership

Why I choose leadership, my leadership promise and values exercises come from Douglas Conant and Amy Federman's book *The blueprint: 6 practical steps to lift your leadership to new heights*.

- How do you want to spend your leadership life?
- What is the work you feel called to do?
- What is your dream?
- How do you want to leverage your special gifts and interests to make the world a better place?
- What does having a positive impact mean to you?
- What is your quest?
- What inspires you?
- What are you working towards?
- What are the 2-5 things you would want someone to say at your eulogy?
- What is the legacy you want to leave?

Reflecting on these prompts, why do you choose leadership?



Based on these prompts, finish this sentence.

I choose leadership because _____

What is my promise?

Your leadership promise defines what people can expect from you. Here are some prompts to inspire that reflection. Your email feedback will be helpful inspiration too.

- What makes me different?
- What do people most value about me?
- What qualities am I not willing to compromise on?
- What parts of my personality do I leverage most in my leadership?
- Who are the key stakeholders who I make this promise with?

Write down everything that comes to mind.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the user to write down their thoughts and reflections on their leadership promise.

Which of the traits and qualities you've described above reflect your competence (skills, knowledge, capability) vs your consciousness (character traits)?

Take a moment to reflect on how these traits and qualities inform your identity. How, when and where might you need to shift or soften them to support your adaptive challenge?

Leadership values

Values guide our behaviours and help us be consistent, especially when we're tested. Can you think of a time where you took a principles stance on something when it might have been risky, inconvenient or damaging to your career to do so? Describe it below. What was the principle you were defending?

Describe a time when you had to make a difficult decision or have an uncomfortable conversation out of integrity with what you believe and value. What was so important that it was worth defending despite the discomfort?

Now think of a time, when you know you could have taken a stand on something but you didn't. What was the situation, why didn't you and what were the consequences?

The values that govern your leadership choice are most likely found in these answers.

Write down your leadership values and why they're important to you. For example, I value candour because it drives me crazy when people don't say what they really mean.

Value 1

Value 2

Value 3

Value 4

Value 5

Value 6

Shape your future

Crafting your purpose statement

Before you craft your purpose statement, let’s reflect on life outside of work and return to Stephen Covey’s personal mission statement questions.

Imagine it’s 20 or 30 years from now (you choose the time horizon) and you’ve achieved all that you hoped to in life and at work. What is your list of achievements? What do you want to be, do and have?

Be	Do	Have

Incorporating the insights above, articulate your leadership purpose, using leadership in the broadest terms (ie beyond paid work). Take a stab below.

Profile

Your leadership profile or brand is your identity and distinctiveness as a leader. It manifests your purpose by communicating the value you offer and what people can expect from you.

The impact you have and the opportunities you receive is a function of your leadership profile. Any mismatch between your leadership brand and the roles you aspire to will act as a hand-break on your aspirations. Knowing your current leadership brand and crafting one that supports your future ambition is critical.

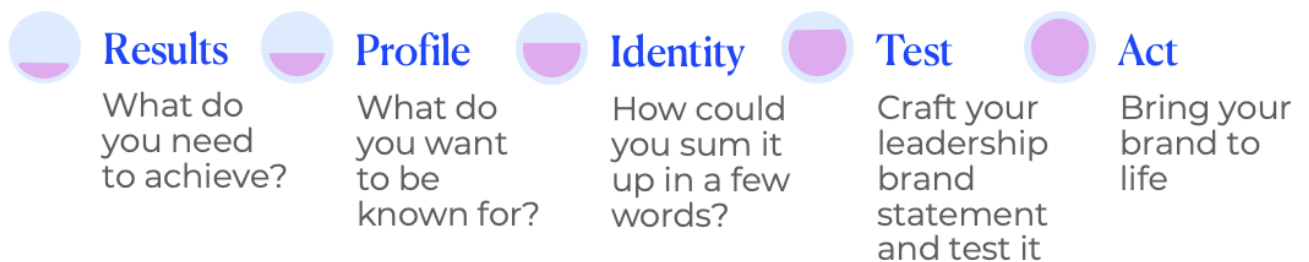
In this section, we're exploring:

1. The importance of cultivating an authentic leadership profile with the right stakeholders to support your leadership journey.
2. How to build a leadership profile that supports your future ambitions.
3. How your adaptive challenge can support your leadership profile.

To navigate this topic, we're adapting the work of HBR regular contributor and strategic HR expert, Norm Smallwood. Smallwood's 5 steps help you clearly articulate what you want to be known for, how you're currently perceived and what steps you can take to close that gap.

Let's dive in...

Defining your leadership brand



Step 1: What results do you want to achieve over the next year?

In the next 12 months, what are the major results you want to deliver at work? This is much more than your skills and strengths; it's an outward focussed expression of the results you want to be known for. Feel free to lift this directly from what you shared in your leadership journal.

Now let's break that down into different stakeholder groups eg the fund, my team, my manager, the industry, clients. How do the results you want to deliver differ across these groups?

Stakeholder group	Results I want to deliver in the next year

Step 2: What do you wish to be known for?

What are the traits and skills you're currently known for? How do these reflect your personality preferences (see perception cards below for reference)?

As you consider your leadership potential, what are the traits and skills that you need to be known for to succeed in your next role? The personality perception cards below might help here too. How much of gap is there between what you're currently known for, and what you need to be known for? The feedback you've received from colleagues might provide helpful insight.

Step 3: Define your identity

Combine the traits articulated above into a series of two-word statements. Consider a range of identities that might be relevant in different contexts to build your identity flexibility.

Step 4: Construct your leadership brand statement then test it

Using the insights above, construct your leadership brand as a statement, or several statements.

I want to be known for

So I can deliver

For

I want to be known for

So I can deliver

For

Who will you test it with by asking these questions:

- Is this the brand identity that best represents who I am and what I can do?
- Is this brand identity something that creates value in the eyes of my organisation and key stakeholders?
- What risks am I taking by exhibiting this brand? Can I live this brand?

Step 5: Make your brand identity real

What actions do you need to take to bring your leadership brand to life?

How does the adaptive challenge you're working on support this leadership brand?

How else do you need to adapt at the level of mindset and identity to achieve your leadership profile? What other adaptive challenge might you need to embrace?

Explore your new adaptive challenge and what needs to change with a new [Immunity to Change X-Ray](#).

Plan

Crafting a 5-year career plan that brings your purpose and profile to life and guides your actions

Your 5 year career plan is a fluid articulation of the actions you might take to fulfil your leadership purpose and bring your leadership brand to life.

We're going to explore:

- **Alignment check:** How well your current role reflects your purpose and desired profile
- **Growth opportunities:** What you could do to craft a role that better reflects your purpose and desired profile (new responsibilities, projects or roles)
- **Action plan:** What skills, experience and contacts you need to be successful in those new responsibilities, projects or roles

“Clarity breeds mastery. And the goals you set drive the actions you’ll take”

Robin Sharma, author

Alignment check

Working in alignment with your purpose and being true to your leadership brand is the key to career and personal fulfilment. Let's start with an assessment of how well the key components of your current role deliver against the major elements of your purpose and brand.

Step 1

Start by breaking down your purpose and brand elements into its components. Eg my purpose is:

I help people build fulfilling and flourishing careers and lives by elevating their consciousness, boosting their confidence and connecting them with opportunities.

My leadership brand is:

I want to be known for facilitating powerful conversations, and creating and curating thought-provoking ideas, via high-energy learning experiences that change people

They key components of my purpose and profile are: (1) Impacting careers and lives, (2) Inner work / consciousness focus, (3) Having powerful conversations / sharing ideas that matter, (4) Working with people who are ready to grow.

Step 2

Breakdown the components of your role. These could be KPIs and / or roles and responsibilities. For me, I have 7 key components, see table below.

Step 3

Assess how well each role component fulfils your purpose and profile. I've used a simple traffic light assessment.

Step 4

Explore ways you can shape your role and career to be in greater alignment with your purpose and profile:

- Perfect alignment is not necessarily the outcome - no job is perfect. Which points of misalignment are you happy to accept?
- Which points of misalignment cause the greatest amount of friction for your inner or outer game? Eg
 - What causes the most stress or upset?
 - Where do you feel you're not playing to your strengths?
- How might you recraft those components within your current role?
- What future role might you aspire to that better aligns with your purpose and profile?
- What new skills, experience or contacts do you need to attain that future role? And how will you attain them?

Step 5

Develop an action plan that captures the steps you will take to evolve your current role for greater alignment and attain the skills, experience and contacts for a future role.

Sample: My alignment check

Role components	Purpose and profile elements			
	Impacting careers and lives	Inner work / consciousness focus	Having powerful conversations / sharing ideas that matter	People who are ready to grow
Facilitation				
Business development				
Team management				
Content development				
Future IM/Pact				
Systems improvement				
Administration				

My insights

- I'm happy accepting some aspects of my role ie systems improvement and admin are enablers to me fulfilling my purpose and therefore will always be orange. I also have an excellent team in place that reduce that burden on me.
- I'm evolving my business to focus on talent who are ready to grow and deeper consciousness work. This program is part of that evolution! And this analysis has helped me clarify that strategic vision.
- While Future IM/Pact doesn't focus on inner work, it's probably the most impactful work I do because of the impact it has on careers and lives, and the women we reach are in the sweet spot for growth. Deeply connecting with that has helped me shift my mindset on that program and created a new energy level for me to direct at that work.

Your turn...

My leadership purpose

My leadership brand

Alignment test

Role components	Purpose and profile elements				

Insights and implications

Which points of misalignment are you happy to accept?

Which points of misalignment cause the greatest amount of friction for your inner or outer game? Eg what causes the most stress or upset? Where do you feel you're not playing to your strengths?

How might you recraft those components within your current role?

What future role might you aspire to that better aligns with your purpose and profile?

What new skills, experience or contacts do you need to attain that future role? How might you attain them?

What limiting mindsets are arising that you might need to overcome?

Action plan

Be as specific as you can with your action planning.

Actions to take	By when?	Who can support you?	How will you hold yourself accountable?

[illegible]

[illegible]

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