



Life Leaders Journal

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Benjamin Franklin wrote in his autobiography (circa 1726):

"Those who write of the art of poetry teach us that if we would write what may be worth the reading, we ought always, before we begin, to form a regular plan and design of our piece: otherwise, we shall be in danger of incongruity.

I am apt to think it is the same as to life.
I have never fixed a regular design in life;
by which means it has been a confused variety of different scenes.

I am now entering upon a new one:
let me, therefore, make some resolutions,
and form some scheme of action, that, henceforth,
I may live in all respects like a rational creature."

Ben Franklin decided he needed a plan for life in order to improve his life, to move closer to his best-self. He identified 13 virtues by which he wanted to live and wrote resolutions.

Life Leaders plan for life and benefit from additional inspiration and focus on priorities, as well as knowing they are taking action on a principle-based practice for our best-selves. Most estimate that fewer than 5% have a written plan equal in substance to a high school paper.

Best-self Servant Leaders help others plan for their lives. If you are a leader in an organization, you will get better results if you add a reward/requirement for each professional writing a plan that states mission, vision, goals, and priorities for time and action. If a teacher/professor, more of your students will plan and succeed if you add the assignment with value in their grades. Leaders who put systems in place to help people do the right things automatically (like requiring and rewarding plans connected to desired performance and assessment) *serve better as mentors instead of managers* and leave more lasting legacies.