

Writing an Ethical Will*

Getting Started | Questions to Consider Asking

(in no particular order)



1. What principles have guided you during your life - or what principles have you tried to uphold?
2. Describe an experience or turning point - from any stage of your life - and how it impacted you/informed your values.**
3. What is one of the most important things your parents taught you?
4. What do you want your family and/or friends to know about you? Why is this important to you?
5. What do you want your family and/or friends to know about your religious faith or spiritual life?
6. What do you want your family and/or friends to know about your values and beliefs?
7. What is one of the biggest life lessons you learned, and how did you learn it?
8. What (or who) brings you the most joy in life? Why?
9. What are your hopes and dreams for your family and descendants, and/or the people you hold most dearly in life?
10. If you could give \$1 Million to five different charities, who would you give the money to, and why?

*A note about the process: remember to... identify your audience; state your intent/why you are writing this; think about your values; find your focus (is there a theme?); organize your thoughts in an outline; and use your outline to create a letter as if telling a story... the story of YOU!

**Memories convey values. Think of one or two stories that illustrate yours. What significant moments, turning points, life transitions and milestones do you recall?