

Self-assessment

Knowing oneself is a critical part of being an artist. Whether it is tapping into your creative self or being inspired by something, we as artists need to be the masters of self-reflection.

This self-reflection is at the crux of knowing how to be a better artist. It can also help in knowing how to be a successful artist as a business-person; a critical piece to our creative work.

This self-assessment is a living document. It can change each year of your creative life. Use this exercise as a chance to create your baseline and know where you are starting from and where you want to go.

What are the top 5 things you love about being a musician?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Goals

What are your short- term goals (1-3 years)?

What are your long- term goals (4-8 years)?

Introductory questions:

1. What amount of money would you like to make per year on average over the next 8 years?
2. What amount of money do you think you need to live comfortably?
3. What items are 'must haves' professionally and personally? (car, cell phone, Netflix)
4. How many hours a week would you think you would be comfortable working?
5. Would you rather have a job you love and make a humble income or a job you kind of like and make a great salary?
6. What are your hobbies that are important to you?
7. Could you work for others or would you rather work for yourself? Why?

The following are two lists of value statements. Go through each list and for each statement rate how important it is for you to have that value in your job. Use the following three-point scale:

1	2	3
Low Importance	Medium Importance	High Importance

At work:

“It is important to me that...”

- | | |
|--|---|
| _____ There is a clear leadership structure in the workplace | _____ my co-workers are enjoyable to be around |
| _____ The job could give me a feeling of accomplishment | _____ I could do things for other people |
| _____ I could work alone on the job | _____ I could do the work without feeling it is morally wrong |
| _____ I could do something different everyday | _____ the company would administer its policies fairly |
| _____ My pay would compare well with that of other workers | _____ There is not a boss in the workplace |
| _____ The job would provide for steady employment | _____ I could try out some of my own ideas |
| _____ I could be busy all the time | _____ I could make decisions on my own |
| _____ The job would have good working conditions | _____ I could plan my work with little supervision |
| _____ The job would provide an opportunity for advancement | _____ I could “be” somebody in the community |
| _____ I could get recognition for the work I do | _____ I could be a leader in my workplace |

From the previous list, write down your top 5 work values from the list above. This will be valuable when you make decisions about employment.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

In my personal life:

“It is important to me that...”

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I maintain good health | <input type="checkbox"/> I have an abundance of leisure time |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have many close friends | <input type="checkbox"/> I have the ability to move from place to place |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have a large family | <input type="checkbox"/> I have a stable life |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have a fulfilling career | <input type="checkbox"/> I have a life without stress |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have a happy and loving marriage/relationship | <input type="checkbox"/> I am mentally challenged |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I live a financially comfortable life | <input type="checkbox"/> I have the opportunity to make social change |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have independence | <input type="checkbox"/> I will be remembered for my accomplishments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have the ability to demonstrate creativity | <input type="checkbox"/> I can help those in distress |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I can maintain my spiritual life | <input type="checkbox"/> I have the freedom to live where I wish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have children someday | <input type="checkbox"/> I take time for myself |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I can have a variety of interests | <input type="checkbox"/> I take time to enjoy art, entertainment and culture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have the freedom to create my own lifestyle | <input type="checkbox"/> I have a life with exciting challenges |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am able to own a home | <input type="checkbox"/> I have a life with exciting changes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have plenty of ‘down time’ | <input type="checkbox"/> I have the opportunity to be a leader |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I contribute to my community | <input type="checkbox"/> I have a chance to get into politics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I create or maintain a good physical appearance | <input type="checkbox"/> I live according to strong moral values |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have the opportunity to establish roots in one place | <input type="checkbox"/> I have the opportunity to teach others |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have the opportunity to engage in physical activity | <input type="checkbox"/> I am able to create something memorable |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I live an exciting life | <input type="checkbox"/> I have a chance to become famous |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> I am able to help others solve problems |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> I am able to make lots of money |

From the previous list, write down your top 5 life values from the list above.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Entrepreneurial Checklist

Non-musical skills combined with other entrepreneurial skills are the crux to creating a meaningful and successful career.

We learn these skills as we grow. Identifying the skills we already possess and the ones we want to develop will be a part of developing our successful careers.

Put a check mark (✓) next to the skills/traits you feel you are good at and an (X) next to the skills you would like to improve.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interpersonal | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising skills |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Writing skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Communication skills |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public speaking | <input type="checkbox"/> Branding and marketing skills |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Social media skills |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Negotiation skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Excel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Budget and finance skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Problem solving |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Research skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Goal-setting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Technology (computer) skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Seeing the big picture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Website creation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grant writing | |

Personal strengths and weaknesses are great identifiers for understanding our abilities as entrepreneurs.

Put a check mark (✓) next to the skills you feel you are good at and an (X) next to the skills you would like to improve.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Networking abilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Planner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Determination | <input type="checkbox"/> Detail oriented |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tenacity | <input type="checkbox"/> Organized |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to handle rejection | <input type="checkbox"/> Optimistic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flexibility | <input type="checkbox"/> Strong self-awareness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Openness to new ideas | <input type="checkbox"/> Risk taker |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Curiosity | <input type="checkbox"/> Reliable |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Integrity | <input type="checkbox"/> Communication |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Intellectual curiosity | <input type="checkbox"/> Friendly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Good follow-through | <input type="checkbox"/> Attitude |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resiliency | |

Questions to reflect on:

Is your life reflective of your personal values? If not, why?

Do you see similarities or differences between your personal and work values? If so, which values? Will this impede your career path?

Are there parts of your life that you would like to see change, but cannot? If so, what is your plan and timetable for your lifestyle to be in step with your values and goals? Who might help you with these plans?