

## Creating a Personal Code of Ethics

As we have learned, a Code of Ethics for businesses sets up guidelines for the behaviors which they expect their employees or members to follow based on how the business wants to operate and be seen by outsiders. In the same sense, a Personal Code of Ethics should set up guidelines for your own behaviors based on who you are, your beliefs, and why you have those beliefs.

### Setting up your Personal Code of Ethics:

Get out a sheet of paper and pencil and be prepared to look within!



First, think about who you are. Not like “I am Barney. I am a giant dinosaur who is purple and green”, but like “I am caring; helpful; kind; honest.” If a friend were asked to describe you, what would they say?

Next, write down what you believe. Don’t tell why you believe these just yet. Barney would say “I believe in telling the truth. I believe everyone should get along. I believe everyone can learn. I believe in using your imagination. I believe in being a good friend. I believe in respect for others”

After you have made a list of the things you believe, go back and write why you believe those to be true. “I believe everyone should get along *because* a friendly community fosters growth in individuals and teaches us to accept other views and opinions.” “I believe it is important to respect others *because* without giving that respect, I will not be respected back and I would like others to know and understand where I am coming from.”

**TIME TO WRITE!!!** Organize all your beliefs and reasons in some sort of order that makes sense. Not necessarily in order of importance, but the beginning of the list should be what you believe and always follow through with no matter what.

After you have a formally written list, go back and reflect on why this Personal Code of Ethics represents you and why you think upholding these standards and beliefs is important. This does not need to be a long introduction, but it should set the stage for the statements that follow.

### Requirements:

Minimum of 10 statements of what you believe and why	10 pts. each
Well written and developed introduction	10 pts.
<u>Brainstorm/preparation sheet</u>	<u>10 pts.</u>
Total	120 pts.

These should appear professional and should be *free* of grammatical errors. To ensure you have not misspelled, USE SPELL CHECK!!! Two points will be deducted per each grammatical error.