

Your No-Nonsense Guide to

**SETTING AND
ACHIEVING
YOUR GOALS**



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Your No-Nonsense Guide to Setting and Achieving Your Goals

Do you know how important setting goals are to achieving success at anything? Do you set goals? Are they effective? Do you have written goals? If you answered no these questions, you aren't alone. Research has shown that 90 percent of people don't have written goals.

Think of it like this. You go to the supermarket without a list. You roam the aisles, grabbing whatever catches your eyes. When you get home, you realize you've forgotten half the things you need. So now you have to make another trip to the store. Not only have you wasted time, but money as well, on things you don't need. Having goals without writing them down is like shopping without a list.

The one thing all successful people, whether they are an athlete, a business owner or someone who has lost weight and kept it off, have in common is that they set goals for themselves.



Many people work hard but don't seem to get anywhere. They feel as if they're adrift, floating from one day to the next.

A key reason for this is because they haven't taken the time to think about what they want in life and they don't set any formal goals. It's kind of like starting out on trip without any idea of where you are going. It's probably not a good idea.

Goal setting is powerful. It puts you in the process of thinking of your ideal future and what motivates you to work toward that vision. Goals are your roadmap to your future.

Creating this goals roadmap is the process which helps you choose what you want in life, where you want to go and who you want to be. When you know precisely what you want to achieve, you know where you need to focus your efforts to achieve the end result.

Having goals will help you quickly spot when you are going in the wrong direction or the distractions that lead you astray.

So how do you set goals that you can achieve and how can you avoid failure? That's where this guide can help.

Welcome to the No-Nonsense Guide to Setting and Achieving Goals report. This guide is designed to take you from floating through life to setting and achieving goals in a simple to understand, easy to implement format. Get ready - this guide will move you to set goals for change.

What you're about to learn in this guide:

- Why you need goals

- Why goals fail
- How to successfully set goals
- Tips from the experts
- How to follow through

Before we get to the heart of goal setting, we should look at more reasons why you need goals to succeed in everything you do.

Why You Need Goals

“Without goals, and plans to reach them, you are like a ship that has set sail with no destination.”– Fitzhugh Dodson

Almost all successful achievements begin with setting a goal. It’s the step that motivates you to take the first step toward what you want.

You probably know people who have a passive approach in life. They don’t set any goals. They just go through their life, day-by-day, doing the same thing from year to year. They don’t set a goal to achieve anything and that is exactly what they achieve.

The following list gives you 5 more reasons you need goals in life.

1. **To move you in a focused direction.** Have a goal, especially one that is written down with a set date to accomplish it. Your goals represent your inner desires. Your inner desires are what motivate you in life. Goals are a constant reminder of why you are doing the actions you’re doing. They are the path that leads you forward.



2. **Turn big dreams into small steps.** A big dream can seem impossible to accomplish. It can be discouraging. But when you set goals the right way, you break those larger, more intimidating goals down into smaller, achievable steps. These smaller goals make it easier to see what you need to do each step of the way.

3. **Hold you accountable.** Having concrete goals and writing them down gives you a timeline for achievement. If you fail along the path, you have something to look to for re-evaluation. You might be humbled if you look back on goals you set for 6 months, a year or even 5 years ago only to see you were supposed to accomplish a lot more than you did. It’s a sign that you went off the path with a wrong turn. Having these concrete goals written down helps you see where you need to go and what changes you need to make to reach them.

4. **Goals help us believe in ourselves.** Goals are a way to fuel your ambition. Goals give you a plan for your life and hold you accountable as well as give you inspiration to aim for things you might have thought were impossible to achieve. For example, maybe

you want to accomplish something many people only dream of. Setting a goal to reach that dream and the steps it takes to get there helps you see your progress.

5. **Give you a picture of what you really want.** More often than not, you have set goals that don't really reflect what you really want. Maybe you think you need more money but what you really need is a change of environment. Or maybe you've set a goal to change jobs when what you really need is to work at something you can be passionate about. Having a vague sense of success keeps you from going after what you truly desire. Setting goals forces you to ask yourself what you really want and re-assess your goals as you gain perspective and self-reflection on what really makes you happy.

Finally, goals are necessary if you want to succeed at anything. They act as a map to guide you to what you truly desire and hope to achieve in your life. You use goals to reach personal, spiritual and professional success so you are living life to the fullest.

Why Goals Fail

"Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off your goal." ~ Henry Ford

Now that you know why you need goals, setting the right ones and meeting them can be somewhat of a problem. More often than not we fail to meet some of the goals we set for ourselves. There are several major reasons for this.



- **Vague goals that lead to setting the wrong priorities.** Sometimes you manage to find time to do things that don't add any value to your life and aren't relevant to your goals. You might have a goal to write a book within a year. Instead of writing to reach that goal, you work on other stuff like getting pulled into Facebook or chatting on forums about something else.

If the goal is important enough for you, make it a priority to work on it.

- **Listening to the wrong people.** Often, we associate with those who steer us in the wrong direction for whatever reason. It could be they are afraid you will leave them if you succeed. Or maybe they are jealous of your ambition.
- **Our own selfish acts keep us from achieving our goals.** Selfish acts such as not being willing to change a bad habit or thinking we deserve something without having to do the work.
- **We procrastinate.** We make excuses. Lots of excuses. It seems it's easier to come up with an excuse than a reason why we need to be doing something. We've all made them. They range from not having enough time to the full moon. We'd rather watch TV or put off doing something because it's easier than tackling our goals. Excuses are just that: excuses and they keep you at a standstill.

Excuses often come about when we are afraid or uncertain of the outcome or the next step or what people will think. Or they happen when we are feeling lazy. We just don't want to get out of our comfort zone and tackle what needs to be done to move us toward our goal.

- **Negative thoughts and fears.** We grow our fears larger than we think of our abilities. Fear of failure (or success) kills dreams before they get to the first step. It's often that we believe things won't work out (or if they do, what will change), and this keeps us from working on our goals.

Fear robs you of self-confidence. It allows you to come up with reasons (excuses) why you can't accomplish your goals.

- **Lack higher purpose.** Your "WHY" is weak. You have to know what your goal means to you and why you set it. Are you chasing after something because it's expected of you or to keep up with your peers?

If you set a goal for the wrong reason and spend time chasing after things you really don't want, you lose your motivation to continue. You aren't committed to them enough to achieve them and end up wasting time, money and energy. Instead figure out your "WHY" before you set your goals.

- **Working on too many things at once.** Trying to do many different things spreads your attention too thin. It can keep us from developing our skills and expertise in an area we would thrive and be passionate about.

You need to discover what you are really good at and most driven to achieve and focus on it. Set goals to achieve success at that before you move on to something else.

- **Not having a plan.** As the saying goes when you fail to plan, you plan to fail. Having a plan is an essential part of reaching your goals. It's the roadmap that gets you from point A to point B. Ask yourself how you plan to achieve your goal and what actions you need to take. Then use the answers to make a plan.

A plan is the steps you need to take to reach your goal. Use these to set your priorities for what you need to do and when you need to do each step.



- **Not responsible and lack of commitment to the goal.** This is kind of like knowing what your "why" is. We've all done it. We start a diet with good intentions on Monday but by the end of the week we begin to cheat until we are completely off track.

You need to be fully committed to your goal to follow through. Excuses, friends and those donuts will always pop up when you least expect them to derail you or cause you to put off your goals.

- **Bad habits derail you.** You have a habit of giving up when the going gets tough. It's easier to just quit than to work through problems.

Your goal may require you to change the way you eat or to exercise more or work harder or put yourself in front of others. It's easier to grab a bag of chips and sit on the couch or to pass the work on to someone else. Changing your bad habits is a necessary step in achieving your goals.

There are many reasons we seem to fail at goals. One of the biggest, of course, is the failure to set goals in the first place. Even an informal goal is better than none at all. Lack of action and following through on your goals often comes from fear. Recognizing your fear and committing to working through it will go a long way in reaching your goals.

Successfully Setting Goals

"A goal without a plan is just a wish." ~Larry Elder

As you can see, failing at our goals is often a lot easier than achieving them. You might be asking yourself why bother setting goals if you are going to fail. You can successfully achieve your goals if you take a few steps to set up the right kinds of goals.

Those who succeed at reaching their goals all do certain things in common.

- **Believe in your goals.** It doesn't do you any good to create goals that you don't believe you can achieve. Make them just out of your current reach.
- **Visualize yourself having achieved the goal.** For example, if your goal is to lose 10 pounds in 2 months, visualize yourself buying a size smaller outfit.
- **Write your goals down.** This is a powerful step. It's the number one thing that helps keep you on track. Begin by writing down the big goal. Then break it down into smaller steps on how to reach your goal. Henriette Anne Klauser details this in her captivating book, *Write It Down and Make It Happen*. Writing down your goal means you are stating your intention and setting things in motion.
- **Commit to them.** Do something towards achieving your goal every day. It doesn't have to be a major step. Just do something. Maybe it's drinking one more glass of water or walking an extra block.
- **Stay focused.** Keep the number of goals you set at one time to less than 5. It's difficult for anyone to focus on more than 5 items at one time. Don't include several goals under each big goal. Instead focus on a few goals that you can repeat from memory.
- **Create "SMART" goals.** This popular acronym that has been proven to work when setting your goals. They meet five specific criteria:



- **Specific-** the goal must identify exactly what you want to accomplish in a very specific way. Instead of a goal of, “write a book”, make it more specific like, “Write a book proposal for The Family Life Manifesto.”
 - **Measurable-** the goal needs to have a measurable end result so you know without a doubt you have hit your goal. A goal of “earn more than last year” can’t be measured. A goal of “Earn \$10,000 more this year than the last.” can.
 - **Actionable-** your goal should start with an action. (run, finish, quit, earn) instead of a to be verb (be, have, am). Replace “Be more active” with “Run 2 miles every day.”
 - **Realistic-** a good goal will stretch you out of your comfort zone but not be so unrealistic as to not be attainable in a reasonable amount of time. A lofty goal of “Qualify for the PGA Tour” might be better than “Lower my golf handicap by four strokes.”
 - **Time-** the goal needs to have a specific date for completion. It can be a year-end date or a closer date. “Lose ten pounds” doesn’t have a specific time while “lose 10 pounds by August 31” does.
- **Plan of action.** Once you’ve committed to a goal, create a plan of action to attain it. The best way to do this is to break the big goal into smaller steps. Work backward from the big goal to help you figure out what you need to do.
 - **Review your written goals frequently.** Review them on a regular basis to keep on track and to determine what your next step is. You can review them daily, weekly or monthly, whatever works best for you. Let your goals inspire you to fill your daily task list.

Goal-setting is not just helpful, it’s necessary to succeed in what makes you happy. Those who make consistent progress towards their goals are often happier and have more satisfied lives than those who drift through life. Successful goal setting is the guide that gets them to the end of their goal.

Tips from the Experts

It’s one thing to tell you that you need to create concrete goals. I mean, who am I to tell you they work? I searched out some experts who have used goals to make a success of themselves.

Here are some of their tips on setting and achieving goals.

1. **“Focus and concentration are the keys to success.** Focus means that you know exactly what it is that you want to accomplish and concentration requires that you dedicate yourself to doing only those things that



move you toward your goal.” Brian Tracy is a top sales trainer and personal success authority.

2. **“Set ‘bumper goals’** – so that if you finish Benchmark A, B or C – you STILL have a win and can stop or celebrate! This gave me a ‘game’ mentality and I was actually curious to see which goal I would hit first! Maybe I’m a geek, but it made my task more fun!” Carrie Wilkerson, *The Barefoot Executive* is a best-selling author, international speaker, award-winning podcaster, and radio guest.
3. “Even though you have a goal in mind that you will work tirelessly for, **remember that you are human** and that everyone needs a rest. You know that statement that says to adjust your oxygen mask before helping others? That is absolutely true—get your oxygen before you can give to those around you.” Mally Roncal is a makeup artist and founder and president of Mally Beauty.
4. **“Never feel you’ve reached your goals.** Don’t ever give up on your dreams, and work toward making them a reality.” José Eber is a celebrity hairstylist.
5. **“I block out several hours every week on my calendar for ‘creative time.’** I turn off my phone and spend time writing and researching. I think it’s really important to do these weekly sessions because they provide clarity about my brand and where I want it to go; this practice can help with any goal.” Emily Morse is a sex therapist, relationship advisor, and author.
6. “Goals such as ‘eat more healthfully,’ ‘exercise more,’ or ‘get more fun out of life’ are vague. **Make it clear to yourself what you’re expecting from yourself.** Goals such as ‘bring my lunch to work every day,’ ‘take a 20-minute walk after work,’ or ‘make a lunch date with a friend every Friday’ are easy to measure.” Gretchen Rubin is the best-selling author of *The Happiness Project*.
7. **“Some goals must be BIG to make you stretch and grow to your full potential.** Some goals must be long-range to keep you on track and greatly reduce the possibility of short-range frustrations. Some goals must be small and daily to keep you disciplined. Some goals must be ongoing. Some goals (i.e., weight loss, sales success, education, etc.) may require analysis and consultation to determine where you are before you can set the goals. Most goals should be specific.” Zig Ziglar was a long time motivational speaker.
8. “A key thing with goals that I learned from Facebook is to **only have one goal for a specific period of time.** It helps with saying no to other distractions you will face during the year.” Noah Kagan is the founder of AppSumo, a company that connects businesses with great products that will help them succeed & writes the OkDork blog.
9. “Using my list of priorities as a guide, **I focus on one step at a time.** New ideas may be considered, but if they could get priorities out of order, they have to wait their turn. I generally jot those ideas in a project file, and then return focus to the task at hand.” Kathryn Aragon, is an award-winning copywriter, content marketer, consultant and product creator. She is also the editor of *The Daily Egg*, Crazy Egg’s conversion optimization blog.

There you have it. Straight from successful people the tips they use to reach their goals. Follow their examples to achieve your own successful goals.

Following Through to the End

A goal properly set is halfway reached. ~ Zig Ziglar

Listen. You know it's a great idea to create and write down your goals, but if you don't follow through with them they won't do you any good. It takes more than wishful thinking to follow through on your dreams. Learning a new skill or getting more education or motivating yourself to change the way you eat takes specific steps.

Once you know how to create strong goals and how to make a plan to follow through on each one, you've learned a skill that will help you succeed the rest of your life.

- **Differentiate between short and long-term goals.** This is your first step. You need to write down your goals and set a specific date you want to achieve the goals. Goals can be one month, three months, six months, one year, 5 years or any other amount of time. Short term goals might be something like lose 5 pounds in 2 months while a long-term goal could be save \$300,000 in 5 years to build a home.
- **Have an accountability partner.** This is someone who believes in you and can hold you accountable when you go off track or want to quit. An accountability partner is like a sports coach. They are there to guide you, make sure you do what you say you will and give you a good talking to when you fall off course.
- **Visualize your goals every step of the way.** Take time to visualize what the completed goal looks like. How does it feel? What will you be doing? What does it smell, taste, and look like? IF you need to, cut out or draw an image of the final goal. Imagine yourself in the situation to raise your motivation. When you run into a tough spell, take out your visualization to remind yourself why you are pursuing the goal.
- **Break down your goals into smaller steps.** Make each step small enough that it's not so monumental that it takes you a long time to complete it. Instead have small tasks to complete towards the goal each day. Physically tick off completed tasks from your goal break down list. For instance, maybe your big goal is to lose 20 pounds by eating healthy and exercising. Break this down to something like eat one fresh vegetable for each meal today. Walk for 5 minutes.
- **Review often.** Take time every month to review your goals. This keeps you on track and can help you see if you are pursuing a goal that no longer matters to you.



- **Be consistent.** Work on your goals every day. If you need to, tweak your habits. Work on changing old habits that won't help you reach your goal. Begin building new habits.
- **Reward yourself when you reach a milestone.** Allow yourself to celebrate certain steps along the way.
- **Practice self-forgiveness.** If you fall off track, don't beat yourself up. Be kind to yourself and then get back on track.

In everything that matters, it's important to follow through. You wouldn't ask someone on a date and then not show up would you? Follow through is important and can be achieved by having someone to help motivate you, breaking down your goals into small manageable steps and remembering why you are after the goal to begin with.

What to Do Next

In the end, successfully setting goals can help you find and follow what really matters to you. Take the time to really think about what you want out of your life, your business, your health. Then write out the goals you want to achieve in the short-term and in the long-term. Make them just out of your comfort zone to help you stay motivated.

Get others who are committed to helping you succeed on board. Ask them to be your accountability partners.

Break the goals down into smaller steps.

Finally, be aware of the reasons we often fail at reaching our goals. Make sure you really want what you're reaching for and you have a definite reason why you are pursuing it.

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