



## THE LEGACY YOU LEAVE

**Introduction:** Imagine that it's 10 years from today, and you are attending a ceremony honoring you as the "Leader of the Year." One after another, colleagues and coworkers, members of your family, and good friends take the stage and talk about your leadership and how you have made a positive difference in their lives. What do you hope they will say about you? How do you hope you are remembered on that day?

Record your thoughts using the following L.I.F.E. themes:

**Lessons:** What vital lessons do you hope others will say you have passed on? (For example: She taught me how to face adversity with grace and determination. He taught me what it means to be a coach.)

**Ideals:** What *ideals* — values, principles, and ethical standards — do you hope people will say you stand for? (For example: She stands for freedom and justice. He believes in always telling the truth, even when it isn't what people wanted to hear.)

**Feelings:** What *feelings* do you hope people will say they have / had when being with you or when thinking about you? (For example: She always made me feel I was capable of doing the impossible. He makes me feel important.)

**Evidence:** What lasting *evidence* or *expressions* of your contributions -- tangible and intangible — will people say that you leave to them, and to others yet to come? (For example: She is really the one who built this organization. His dedication to others' lives on in those homes that he helps to build every Saturday as he gives his time to Habitat for Humanity.)

**Theme:** Review your L.I.F.E. responses above. As you review what you wrote, what are the central "themes?" What's at the core of the legacy you want to leave? (For example: I want to be remembered for how I enabled people to learn and grow. Or, my central theme is innovation. I want to be remembered for bringing new and creative ideas to life and work.)