



Emily-Sara Lineback

What Legacy Are You Leaving?

by Jennifer Tate

“What’s the core theme of your life?” That’s a question Emily-Sarah Lineback asks to guide people to think about their legacy. Instead of a will that parcels out your tangible estate, she has you consider the spiritual and moral inheritance you bequeath to others. “You leave a legacy whether it’s intentional or

not, and exploring what lasting lessons and truths you want to impart can also help you achieve

more focus in your everyday life.” Your life story on paper is one of the best and most lasting gifts you can give.

It can be overwhelming to know how to start a legacy statement, which Emily-Sarah bills as “part ethical will, part memoir,” but one or two well-thought-out pages can be sufficient. And she says the exercise is valuable not only to define what you cherish most, but also to serve as a spotlight on what you’re currently doing. In other words, “Does how you live your daily life align with what you say your priorities are? Listing your life themes, desires and goals is a powerful approach to clear out clutter and create a road map to make sure your life lines up with your intended purpose.”

Of course you’ve been forming a legacy your entire life. “It’s not something you design completely by choice.” Instead, it’s about examining what impressions and themes you’re already imparting and then, if necessary, recalibrating actions to better match your aims. “Creating a legacy statement captures your core philosophies, most cherished memories, and can serve as a condensed biography and letter. It tells others clearly, in writing, what you most want them to know—about you, life, what matters most.”

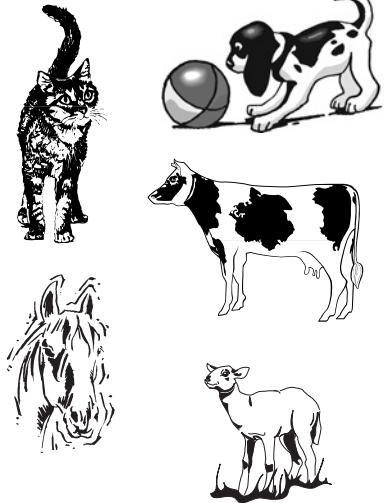
A legacy statement is also beneficial for businesses as a more precise way to identify their essence and how to work outward. “Vision and mission statements are a good start, but they often don’t get at the heart of a company.” Emily-Sarah says that many business mission statements are vague. “I read a college’s proposed new mission statement and if the specific name wasn’t attached, it could be nearly any university in the country. Instead of plugging in overused, trendy buzzwords, now more than ever businesses must earnestly share their purpose, relevance and essence.”

A positive result of the current economy is that it forces us to ask tough questions and to determine what are our most basic and precious priorities. “Who are you at the end of the day, apart from a job, bank account or any material possessions? That’s the beauty of what’s at your core—it can’t be repossessed by anyone other than you.”

Award-winning author, writer and editor Emily-Sarah Lineback has been working with and writing individuals’ and companies’ histories since 1995 through Whitline Ink Incorporated. She has just launched her legacy Web site www.lifeinfirstperson.com. YVL readers who subscribe to her blog by July 1 will be entered in her legacy statement giveaway, and every YVL reader who calls or e-mails to sign up for a legacy statement by July 15 (and it can be scheduled later) will be given a special price of 50% off the base package. 336-367-6914.

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