



SESSION 2: VISION ACTIVITY

What is a vision Statement?

Vision is your dream and passion.

What is a Mission Statement?

Mission is a description of what you do.

A vision statement is your inspiration and the framework for all your advocacy planning. It can apply to you, your group, an organization or a part of one, such as an office or unit. Your vision puts into words your dreams and hopes for the future and must clearly communicate your passion. Your vision statement will have a huge influence on decision making and the way you allocate resources, both time and money.

Vision statements answer the question: Where do I/we want to go? What do I/we want to see in place in 2 years, 5 years, or 10 years? Think ahead, not just for this year or the next.

A vision statement doesn't tell how you're going to get there but it sets the direction for your planning. It is not necessarily public; it may be for you, your company, your partners only.

A mission states the company's or group's purpose and what it does. The mission statement is for those who are part of the group or organization and also for the public.



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Write a vision statement for yourself. Vision and Mission statements tend to go together although the purpose of this exercise is to develop a vision statement. It isn't hard to write an okay vision statement. But it is sometimes difficult to write a vision statement that truly states your vision. A strong vision must state what is most important to you. If you don't fully believe in your vision statement, you won't be able to dedicate your time and efforts to it; writing a vision statement that you don't really believe can be a waste of time.

Start with this template to help you focus your activities during your training with DC Advocacy Partners, and beyond.

Start your thinking by filling in the blanks:

Five years from now, I will (or we will, or DC will):

The part about how that would happen would be the mission statement that we will explore later.

Example: Within the next five years, I will have helped create a safer, more harmonious community for adults with disabilities.

What is it that you want to see in place? What would things look like if your vision of life were realized?



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Then your vision statement could be: *DC will be a safe and harmonious community for individuals with disabilities.

Some additional examples:

*All individuals with disabilities have the supports they need to be employed in the community.

*All DC children with disabilities are taught by highly qualified teachers who are both subject area experts and know the full range of adaptations and accommodations available.

*All City agencies employ at least two people with a disability to work in a decision making capacity.

This is a vision. How it can be accomplished is a different statement that we won't address today. But think about the mission that might go along with such a vision and that may direct your work here in the Partners' program.