

## Leader in Me: Habit 2 Begin with the End in Mind

### What does it mean to begin with the end in mind?

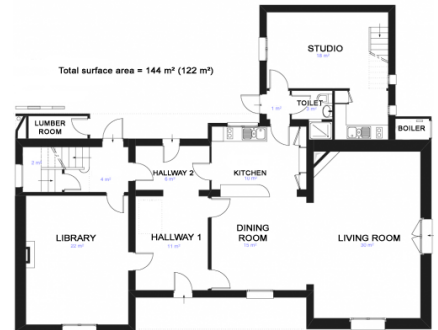
Have you ever worked on a project without a clear purpose? It's frustrating! Imagine trying to figure life out if you didn't have a clear idea of where you wanted to end up. Beginning with the end in mind is the habit of planning, giving thought to the "big picture". What is important to me? What do I want my future to look like?

Let's say it's your 80<sup>th</sup> birthday party. Friends and family are all there. What would you like to be said about you as they make their toasts? Make a list of the people who you think might attend and what you hope they will say about you. You may use some of the titles on the right to get you started and the space below to record your thoughts.

**Spouse  
Children  
Grandchildren  
Friends**

<i>Person</i>	<i>What I want them to say about me</i>

Covey teaches that this habit is based on imagination, or the ability to envision in your mind what you cannot yet see with your eyes. Just as homes are built from the image or blueprint of the home yet to be, the mental creation of our personal mission in life comes first.



The physical creation comes second and cannot exist without first being a mental creation. The physical creation, or life well lived, comes from determining what matters most to you in your life. A personal mission statement helps you focus on what you want to be and do. Begin with the character traits you identified above and then try writing your own mission statement.

