

Conversation 3 - Five Things to Have, Do, Help, and Be

Background: Everyone—every company, every non-profit, etc.—has two options for the future. There is the one that *will* be if we do nothing (continue the status quo) or the one that *could* be if we work to achieve it (plan and act to reach desired ends, goals, dreams, mission). Peter Drucker said it best: “The best way to predict the future is to create it.”

At a very early age, most people are asked, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” We often prompt young minds with examples: “Do you want to be a firefighter? A teacher? A farmer?”

But what if there is a more important question: “Who do you want to become?” This is qualitatively different. This is perhaps the best question to ask to prompt future thinking, focus, and goal setting.

Read over the chart below. Then fill in each box with some ideas.

What are five things you want...

...to have: (These can be tangible or intangible.)	...to do: (This is about <i>what</i> you might do: jobs, careers, things for fun, bucket list items, etc.)
...to help: (These can be big and small. Think broadly.)	...to be: (Not <i>what</i> you might do, but <i>who</i> you might become.)

Analysis: Look at your responses. Will the things you want to do move you in the direction of things you want to have and to help? If not, add some actions to the to-do list, then prioritize. But remember, you cannot do everything. Prioritize by putting some broad target dates next to your to-do items (e.g., within five years).

Challenge: The “to be” category will reflect how people remember you, now or when you’re gone. Consider two action items that will help you accomplish *who* you want to be and *how* you want to be remembered. These may be short or long-term actions. Jot these down.

- 1.
- 2.

Homework: Carry this around, think, reflect, and update it over the next few weeks. You might discuss insights with your mentor, a trusted friend, or a family member.