

ENGAGEMENT 1

Your Personal and Professional Principles

In the **Introduction Course Overview**, we spend some time referring to John Dewey's definition of principles, because we appreciate his idea that *principles serve as a foundation for action*. As we say in the introduction, principles help us decide “when to say yes, when to say *okay, but...* and when to say (*oh hell*) *no.*”

Your foundational principles are deeply embedded in your identities, beliefs, and experiences. Surfacing them can be the project of a lifetime, of course. For the purposes of this Playbook, though, we'll focus on strategies you can use to identify your personal and professional principles as they apply to your own leadership. Before starting this activity, you might want to review videos from some of the contributor mentors who have spoken very eloquently about acting from principle. Elaine Maimon, Elizabeth Wardle, Stacy Perriman-Clark, Chris Blankenship, and Sheila Carter-Tod all discuss their foundational principles and how they have acted on those principles as leaders in challenging situations.

The structured heuristic (thinking tool) below may be helpful for you to begin accessing your own principles. While your principles will likely be much more complex than what you'll create using this brief activity, this can provide a start on that thinking. We've put a sample response in the first row to illustrate. As with all these engagements, we encourage you to return to these principles occasionally to refresh and refine your thinking.

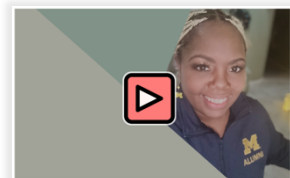
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Values and Principles Guiding Leadership

Elaine Maimon ([Chapter 1](#)) highlights how her core values guide ethical leadership and the responsibility to protect students and employees.



Guiding Principles for Leadership

Staci Perryman-Clark ([Chapter 6](#)) explains how ethics and transparency guide her leadership, stressing accountability even when faced with difficult consequences.

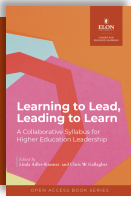


Table 1.1. Your Personal and Professional Principles

Scenario	Initial Response	Why/Principle
I am my best leadership self when...	<i>I can collaborate with others to come up with new ideas</i>	<i>I am committed to shared knowledge-building</i>
I am at my best leadership self when...		
I most enjoy leading when...		
I struggle to lead effectively when...		
As a leader, I will always...		
As a leader, I will never...		