

Living an Impact-Focused Life

What's your Why?

I believe I was put on this earth to:

- Live my life
- Spread love and joy

My purpose is to:

-Enjoy every second of life that I can and be the person that I am as comfortably and freely as I can. I also want to help create a world in which everyone else can comfortably and freely be the person that they are.

I believe (my core values):

- Everyone has a right to exist and not have their existence questioned
- Hate and money are the roots of most of the problems in our society
- In order to achieve a lot of the changes we hope for and become a more diverse, inclusive, and equitable society, we need to completely restructure most of the systems in our societies

The one thing I must do before I die is:

- I don't have one specific thing. I guess many for now.

My advocates and supporters all believe I:

- Approach many of life's situations more calmly than normal

The evil I want to eradicate in this world is:

- Hate, pain, and suffering

I want to work in order to:

- Bring creativity to every possible outlet that I can
- Lead by example and be the inspiration I needed as a child

Walk the Talk - Your *How*

If you are truly committed to your *Why*, you show it in your everyday behavior. It is all air until you do it. Working from your *Why*, *How* do you prove that you are true to your *Why* in all you do?

I always:

-Keep an open mind

I never:

-Judge people maliciously. When I meet people, I become aware of any initial judgements or biases that I have and throw them away. I try to meet people where they are and learn and observe the person that they are without bias.

My work style is:

-Somewhat chaotic. I think I'm very used to procrastination and being able to finish work at the last minute and get myself out of missing work holes that I almost don't know what it would feel like to be on the other side of that. A lot of creativity does come out of that, however, as well as the ability to work well under pressure.

I try to treat people:

-With love and respect.

I approach problems by:

-Trying to be as creative as possible at the start and then being practical where I need to be.

Victories are time to:

-Celebrate and then reflect. I think it's so important to celebrate your victories, no matter how small, otherwise it may feel like any of the work or effort put in was for nothing. After celebrating, it is important to reflect on what worked, what didn't work, what more needs to be done, who could help continue those efforts, what you need to continue that work, etc.

If another attacks my point of view I:

-First, try my best to understand their argument and where they're coming from, so that I can actually respond to the things they're saying. Then, reevaluate and think about whether there is some validity to

their point of view and whether there are things I need to rethink. Finally, if I feel I should reaffirm my point of view, I can try to explain it in a different way.

If I fundamentally do not agree with what an organization or person is doing, I will:

-Either try to explain my point of view or not engage depending on how far off our beliefs are.

Your Credibility - Your Whats

You have just spent some considerable time at Lehigh, and specifically in the Global Social Impact Fellowship, on many *whats*. Your *whats* include lab research, formal presentations, writing research papers, engaging with people in other cultural contexts, building prototypes, designing and building systems, raising funds, hiring employees, etc. The *whats* you have collected along the way are critical to your credibility when you are entering the workforce or applying to the best graduate and professional schools. They signify a credible currency to which organizations can assign value. Create a list of your *Whats* that are truly reflective of your *Why & How*. You did these things because you believe (*Why*) and you acquired them in the following (*How*) manner. These are examples you can use in interviews.

What Have I Done	List of Experiences, Accomplishments, and Lessons Learned
Degrees, Minors, Certificates, Fellowships	-GSIF: Gave me the opportunity to engage in a meaningful project and broadened my perspective of what is possible for my future -MTSE: Allowed me to dive more deeply into the project, obtain various skills, and have meaningful experiences -Student Senate: Worked to create meaningful change within Senate and Lehigh on Diversity and Inclusion related issues
Research Experiences	-IEEE GHIC: Smart City Innovations paper (GSIF) -Gamification paper (GSIF) -The Impact of COVID-19 on Communities of Color (Inquiry to Impact project)
Inventions and Innovations	-Save Tuba app
(Social) Entrepreneurial Ventures	-Save Tuba venture
Publications (Formal and Informal)	-Smart City Innovations paper (GSIF)
Formal Presentations (at Lehigh and Beyond)	-GSIF presentations -MTSE press conferences
Awards and External Recognition	-NACME Scholar -Greer Scholar

Articulating and learning from GSIF-related Experiences. For each of these prompts, we want you to identify one and only one specific and compelling event/incident/experience/moment and identify exactly how you grew personally and professionally through that moment.

Teamwork Experience (and Lessons Learned)	Everything we've done, we've done as a team, but I think over the course of Mountaintop, the process of putting several different pieces of the app design and development together was a great teamwork experience.
Conflict Resolution Experience (and Lessons Learned)	After losing a Mountaintop Associate who really helped our team on the teacher and business connection aspect of the project, our team had to divide and conquer. We learned to act quickly and not let anything fall behind.
Leadership Experience (and Lessons Learned)	Over Mountaintop, I was in charge of sending daily reports to our faculty advisor at the end of every day, so I had to make sure I and everyone else was on top of it. This helped me be somewhat more comfortable leading different efforts.
Dealing with Chaos, Ambiguity, and Uncertainty (and Lessons Learned)	Throughout the covid-19 pandemic, we have dealt with uncertainty about one of the most important parts of our project: communication with our partners. As we lost most of our former partners, it was hard to get the much needed validation to keep the venture going. As we waited, we worked on several supporting parts of the venture and looked to any other resources we had for validation, and now have more to show to our new key partners.
Personally Challenging Experience (and Lessons Learned)	It was very challenging for me to take more decisive action and sometimes take the lead on things. I can be shy and often comfortable being a supporting character for other people, but especially over Mountaintop where out of only two past members, we had to work with four new people, I had to step out of my comfort zone and be more of a leader. This taught me that some things aren't as daunting as they seem, and taking the first step out of your comfort zone makes a big difference.
Cross-cultural Experience (and Lessons Learned)	When we did get opportunities to connect with our partners in Kazakhstan, whether that was through email, Whatsapp, or over Zoom, there were often miscommunications or messages that may not have come across as clearly as they could have. So, we learned to be as direct and clear in messages as possible.
An experience that helped you connect your GSIF work to your discipline / major.	Everything we learn about global cultures and working with different people has connected with the global studies side of my major. The first class we had was one of the most impactful because it really opened my worldview and connected in many ways to my Introduction to Global Studies course.
A moment that boosted your sense of agency and self-efficacy – you felt like you can speak for yourself, get stuff done, take on the world and make it better.	After meeting with the creator of Litterati, one of the ventures Khanjan has often talked about with our team, I definitely felt like I could get stuff done and take on the world because he gave such great advice that not only applied to our venture but to life.
A moment where you felt like you truly have a strong sense of purpose and belonging in this dynamic, globalized interdependent world.	After attending several Innovator in Residence talks by innovators during MTSE, I felt a stronger sense of purpose and belonging because I heard several experiences about people passionately working on whatever subjects or ventures they worked on. It was really great to see such a wide range of people, fields, and lived experiences.