Sample Philosophy Paper #1

I have had many experiences in my life that have taught me valuable lessons. These lessons include everything from "bring your own toilet paper to Europe" to "hold on to those you love while you still have a chance".

One thing that I try to live by in my life is to accomplish things on my own initiative, because any task is more fun if I am doing it for myself and not for someone else. Additionally, because I want to do it, I am much more productive with my time.

Another thing I believe in is taking responsibility for my actions. If someone rightly accuses me of something, no matter how humiliating it may be, I will own up to it.

Something else I have learned is to always try, no matter what the task may be. Whether it is trying a math problem or a new food or even jumping out of an airplane, I will always do something at least once, and I am always persistent when it comes to trying to solve problems or complete a specific task. I try never to quit or bail out of things when they get tough. I will always give it my best.

Additionally, I have learned not to accept people for who they are but to befriend them for who they are. I do not believe that there is anything wrong with giving a friend a few tips to improve him/herself. I would never ask someone to completely transform his/her personality, but to help make someone a better person is often a worthwhile effort.

One last thing (for this article, anyway) that I have learned is not to accept myself for who I am. As much of a perfectionist as I may be, I know that nothing is ever perfect - no person, no school project, nothing - but I still strive for perfection in myself and everything that I do. I am always willing to accept "constructive criticism" about me or anything that I do and use it for the betterment of myself and my work.

Sample Philosophy Paper #2

I have been very fortunate to have been born to two parents that wanted me, could afford to have me and have devoted their lives to make mine what it is today. I'm an only child and have been spoiled with love and attention not only by my parents, but by my grandparents as well. When I was younger, I wished that I had a brother or a sister, but I think not having them has kept me closer to my parents and given me other advantages.

As much as I have been able, I have helped my Dad. Due to an accident, walking is difficult for him, so I have learned how to change the oil in a truck, build a house, finish concrete, take apart an engine, build stairs, and more. Dad loves to buy and sell things and has taught where and how to find a bargain and not to be wasteful. My Mom has always been the steadying force behind Dad and me and is supportive in everything that we do. It's my Mom that has helped me in my education. Reading, English and spelling have always been difficult for me and Mom has helped read to me, color code spelling words, put lessons on tape, etc.

Tae Kwan Do karate is the martial art that I began in second grade. I am a brown belt now and would like to become a black belt. I feel that karate has helped my self-esteem, concentration and discipline. It takes focus to learn all of the moves and I find that that skill has helped me in my studies.

My favorite hobby is to go quad riding...and not just riding, but racing. I love to go to Competition Hill in Cholla Bay, Mexico. Sometimes a hundred or more riders will meet there to race up and down a steep hill
made of sand. I like to see what my bike can do and what I can make it do. I love competition and this is friendly rivalry at its best.

I like almost anything competitive. I like chess...and winning at it! It uses your brain and strategy is important. I love to play defense on the football team. Again, it is competitive and the physical challenge helps you release your aggressions. Almost anything that has an opponent, I enjoy. Whether it is playing pool, ping-pong, car racing, or arm wrestling, I like the competitive nature of it.

The hardest thing for me to conquer is dealing with all of the unfairness in the world. I lose patience when teachers are unfair, show favoritism or grade unreasonably. I don't always understand why policy is made and only applies to a few and not everyone equally. I have always fought for the underdog and tried to take care of my own battles diplomatically. Diplomacy is a hard thing to do, though.

My friends are equally as important to me. I value their input, laughter, triumphs, and defeats. They are always there to share mine, as well. I've found that I enjoy friends with the same high goals as I have. We have more in common and can work together as well as play together.

Over all, I think I'm becoming a reasonably responsible, well-rounded human being. There are a lot of things I don't know yet, but I'm surprised at all of the things I have learned in 16 years. I have a good family that I know will always be there for me and I know that whatever I decide to do in life, they'll be there for me.

Sample Philosophy Paper #3

Personally, I'm glad I've had the opportunities I have growing up thus far. I am not lacking in anything essential to whatever my career may be. I have a firm foundation in English and History, Math and Science, and computer technologies. Not enough, but it's a start.

Where to start? I've come to realize that it's important to know the fundamentals of everything to fully know which path is the right one to step onto. And if things don't go as well as expected, there's always those open alternatives.

Learning really should be diverse to have a healthy and intellectually-rewarding education. Calculus and Drafting is fine for an engineer, but how successful can he be without being able to write reports or make clear explanations to his boss? Or have the skill of a great writer but have no imagination?

I may be old-fashioned, but I believe in doing things the hard way. The not-well-known-truth is, after a while it makes the average tasks easier to do. Taking short-cuts makes things easy, but it also makes progress too much work for the trouble.

On a different note, there's also the phrase "all things in moderation." I like to live by this, especially to justify my not doing assigned "busy work" or non-productive activities. They can be fun sometimes, but they have no value or purpose other than to occupy the mind with empty thoughts (like filling a stomach with empty calories). Whistle while working. It's all in the mind-set, whether to live a lazy "fun" life in front of a flickering screen, or whether to put things to use and enjoy life. No one is born into a fun or an
easy life. There is an unspoken equilibrium where everyone has a load to carry, and if someone doesn't do his part, someone else is burdened with it. (One last thing - guilt is unhealthy!)

Now that I'm through convincing myself that I've got it all figured out, I can get back to what's important: Experiencing things for myself. Making mistakes, making failures. And learning from them so that there's nothing left to do but move forward.

Sample Philosophy Paper #4

There are in forgotten memory numerous experiences lost to a child grown adult, and others that are retained, in mind and in works, ever nourishing intellectually-draining thoughts of profound enlightenment from which a newborn thirst for knowledge falls into consciousness and ever inward.

These experiences are few and far between, but they allow for a man to make of himself something far better than what would have been. Perhaps I've read too much Thoreau, or read too much in general, but in all that I see or do, from a smallest detail to one most significant, I try to find some particular meaning to apply in the overall knowledge of things. The reasons for why I trouble with the burden of toilsome pondering is not so much to achieve a better understanding of the world in which I live as to increase the awareness of my own self.

Already here I have glimpsed at my personal philosophy, or at least how my mind goes about its thoughts, but for now I have a few considered strengths and weaknesses to address.

As far as weaknesses may go, character flaws are not something to be ignored, and can be taken lightly or heavily by a person only after being acknowledged. My own flaws are numerous, but as long as I am aware of each one I can work at correcting it. Unhealthy habits flock where constant apprehension and attention are lacking, and the only way to improve is to give not one but rather continuous true effort. This advice, which I tell myself adoringly, seems either to be common sense or logically obvious, so the first and greatest weakness one needs to absolve is probably the same plague that befell the great Romans and destroyed their mighty Empire, and that is apathy, the lack of care, thought, and deed.

Outside of logical conclusions, past and future wisdom has been and always will be given through external means, for no man is an island unto himself. I have my more memorable profound experiences gained through a simple statement from my father, or perhaps a movie, that upset my involuntary march with a beat from a different drum, and my mind never again could return to its previously pleasant pace.

Strengths, as well as weaknesses, rely greatly but by no means wholly on what we as children experienced. As for myself, I owe most of my mental and physical strengths to my parents, who forced them upon me as a child before I could know any better. A small portion of my healthy habits, but probably the most prevalent for my future, I owe to no one but myself, and I accept all due gratitude for what I accomplished. If there is one thing I have learned in my struggles thus far, it's that the hardest of challenges is always keeping above the water, especially after just pushing forward, but flying is never so easy after that.
It's always an option to take the easy way in life, to blame society for your situation, or to blame heredity for any flaws, but it is those who take the humble path in life, openly seeking challenges and promised struggle, that I respect the most, and it is them who I try to shape my life to, and who I will follow if ever a fork in the road.

Emerson wrote that in every work of genius, one always recognizes his own rejected thoughts. Although everything I have written has been through my mind at one time or another, and probably through other people's minds as well, this day reading these thoughts is probably one of those awkward experiences of silent serenity where an inner joy awakens to a sound fairly resembling the cry of truth, when one's senses feel resurrected in a state of acute awareness, and you think that perhaps for the first and last time you've learned something from my personal philosophy.

Sample Career Paper #1

I have changed my choice of professions several times over the last few years. I started with wanting to be a teacher, and then I decided maybe being a CEO was the job for me, but I have changed my mind yet again. I am currently looking into becoming a structural engineer. I am planning on getting a master in engineering and a minor in business administration/entrepreneurship.

I am planning on attending the University of Arizona as soon as I graduate from high school. A Masters of Engineering degree is required to be completed in under six years in Arizona universities, and a business degree can be completed in four years or less. After college, I would like to work from home as a structural engineer with my own engineering firm.

I believe that I would enjoy structural engineering (and be good at it) because I have excelled in math and science classes throughout my schooling. A lab-type job would not work for me, however, because I enjoy interacting with people as well. Additionally, my "perfectionistic nature" would help me to be accurate in my designs so as to make the buildings I design as durable as possible. I would also enjoy (and be good at) business management because of the leadership skills that I have learned through school, clubs, and other activities. Additionally, I have excelled in English classes as well as math and science classes, so I would get to use those skills in the business part of my career. My "instinct for organization" would also help with my running my own engineering firm.

Sample Career Paper #2
My immediate goal is to graduate high school at the top of my class. Currently, I am second. Although I know that is good, first is better. It is difficult to advance my grade point average this far in my high school career, but I think I can do it. When I graduate, I’m hoping have several scholarships available to me.

At the moment, I’m planning on attending the University of Arizona, in Tucson. My parents would like me to be somewhat close to home and I would, too. Yet, it offers me independence. U of A is located in a smaller town than Arizona State University and I feel that it is the highest ranked public university available in Arizona. Northern Arizona University, in Flagstaff, is beautiful, but I’m not as impressed with it academically.

For my undergraduate degree, I’m thinking of pursuing biomedical engineering. It’s a useful degree in its own right. It would involve using my knowledge of chemistry, math, and biology as well as incorporating my curiosity, competitive nature, and love of exploration and deduction. If I chose not to continue my education after my BS degree, I could earn a decent living with biomedical engineering.

My main goal, however, is to continue on in medicine and become a doctor. The field I believe I will like the best is anesthesiology. The reason for this is that it, again, incorporates my knowledge of the sciences and math. I also like the idea that I would get to be part of all types of surgeries and procedures. I know that family practice wouldn’t be any fun to me as I don’t want the day-to-day ailments that people come in with. I also don’t want to have “regular” patients that you treat for many different things. In anesthesiology, every case is different, every surgery unique. The anesthetist is responsible for keeping people alive and their vital organs functioning during surgery. They are the most important person in relation to the surgery. Without them, the surgery itself wouldn’t be possible. An anesthesiologist is a regular M.D. and it takes many years of schooling, internship and sacrifice. It is also very costly. I’m trying now to make good grades and to receive scholarships for as much of my education as possible.

Ten years from now, I hope to be through school and working in a hospital. Someday, I plan on marrying and having my own family. Having a family to work for and to provide for will make my job more meaningful.