



# Personal Definition of Success

In the Harvard Business Review article, *Success That Lasts*, Laura Nash and Howard Stevenson identify four components that are necessary for “real, enduring success.” In addition, they put forth a practical model for creating a personal definition of success.



1. Read *Success That Lasts* (link below)

Title: *Success That Lasts*

Authors: Laura Nash and Howard Stevenson

Journal: Harvard Business Review

To Access: <https://hbr.org/2004/02/success-that-lasts>

2. Read the instructions on the next page, and use the “My Personal Definition of Success” worksheet on page 3 to draft your responses.

To complete the activity, please reflect on the following:

- Consider how you define success both personally and professionally.
- Think about each category in terms of self, family, work and community.
- Note that topics can be repeated in multiple categories (e.g. something that brings you happiness may also be an achievement).
- Consider the timeline that you choose to evaluate (e.g. you may want to look at what your definition of success is now, or you may want to think about what you hope it will look like mid-career).

Taking into account your reflections, use the worksheet on page 3 to take notes or draft your responses. The information below describes the types of responses that you should indicate for each category. Together, your responses will comprise your personal definition of success.

The four components of enduring success:



**Happiness:** feelings of pleasure or contentment about your life



**Achievement:** accomplishments that compare favorably against similar goals others have strived for



**Significance:** the sense that you've made a positive significant impact on the people you care about



**Legacy:** a way to establish your values or accomplishments so as to help others find future success

Sample Worksheet

