



People Will Summarize Your Life In One Sentence — Pick It Now

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Introduction:

Goal of lesson: Encourage you to begin writing your “Life Sentence.”

A “Life Sentence” takes _____ and

_____.

Sociologist, Anthony Campolo tells about a study in which fifty people over the age of ninety-five were asked one question: “If you could live your life over again, what would you do differently?” The question was open-ended, and people’s answers were varied. However, three themes consistently emerged:

If I had it to do over again, I would _____ more.

If I had it to do over again, I would _____ more.

If I had it to do over again, I would do more things that would

_____.

Harold Kushner writes: *“Our souls are not hungry for fame, comfort, wealth, or power. Those rewards create almost as many problems as they solve. Our souls are hungry for meaning, for the sense that we have figured out how to live so that our lives matter, so that the world will at least be a little bit different for our having passed through it.”*

Live Like You Were Dying

*He said, "I was in my early forties, with a lot of life before me,
When a moment came that stopped me on a dime.
And I spent most of the next days looking at the x-rays.
And talking 'bout the options, talking 'bout sweet time."*

*And I asked him when it sank in
That this might really be the real end.
"How's it hit you when you get that kind of news?
Man, what'd you do?" He said,*

*"I went sky diving; I went rocky mountain climbing;
I went two point seven seconds on a bull named Fumanchu.
And I loved deeper, and I spoke sweeter,
And I gave forgiveness I'd been denying."
And he said, "Someday I hope you get the chance
To live like you were dying."*

*He said, "I was finally the husband that most the time I wasn't.
And I became a friend a friend would like to have.
And all 'a sudden going fishin' wasn't such an imposition
And I went three times that year I lost my dad.*

*"And I finally read the good book and I took a good long hard look
At what I'd do if I could do it all again...and then*

*"I went sky diving; I went rocky mountain climbing;
I went two point seven seconds on a bull name Fumanchu.
And I loved deeper, and I spoke sweeter,
And I gave forgiveness I'd been denying."
And he said, "Someday I hope you get the chance
To live like you were dying."*

*Like tomorrow was a gift
And you've got eternity to think of what you did with it...
What you did with it...What did I do with it?*

*— From the album, Live Like You Were Dying by Tim McGraw
Written by Tim Nichols, Craig Wiseman*

Two Comments About Life and Death

1. We are not to _____ that we will live a long time.

Psalm 39:4 *“Lord, make me to know my end, and what is the measure of my days, that I may know how frail I am.”*

— NKJV

2. We are to _____ and _____ as we reflect on our life.

Psalm 90:12 *“So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.”*

— NKJV

Perspectives For Our Life Sentence

1. Life is _____.

“We cannot truly face life until we face the fact that it will be taken from us.”

— Billy Graham

2. Life is _____.

The difficult thing about life is that it's daily!

3. Life is like a _____.

In his book *Training for Power and Leadership*, Grenville Kleiser writes: Your life is like a book. The title page is your name, the preface your introductions to the world. The pages are a daily record of your efforts, trials, pleasures, discouragements, and achievements. Day by day your thoughts and acts are being inscribed in your book of life. Hour by hour, the record is being made that must stand for all time. Once the word “finis” must be written, let it then be said of your book that it is a record of noble purpose, generous service, and work well-done.

4. Life _____.

There is a choice you have to make in everything you do.
So keep in mind that in the end, the choice you make, makes you.

Priorities For Our Life Sentence

Start Living Today!

The tragedy of life is not that it ends so soon but we wait so long to begin it.

Today, live life _____

Make your life a mission, not an intermission.

Today, live life _____

Life isn't tied with a bow, but it is still a gift.

Today, live life _____

Today, live life _____

When you are eighty, sitting on that porch rocking, and looking back on your life, how will you feel? You won't have to answer to anybody but yourself...not your parents or your spouse or your business associates. What did you do with this gift of living? It will be an important question to you then. So you should make it an important question now.

Here is a test to discover if your mission on earth is finished:
If you're alive, **it isn't!**

*When you were born, you cried, and the world rejoiced.
May you live your life so that when you die,
The world will cry, and you will rejoice.*

— Old Middle Eastern Blessing

Answers: Time; Thought; Reflect; Risk; Live On After I Am Dead; Assume; Learn; Change; Brief; Difficult; Book; Compounds; Fully; Thankfully; Faithfully; Thoughtfully