



Pre-Work – “Career with Purpose” - Aug 19,2021

What are my Big Ideas to “change the world?”

Purpose

The purpose of your engagement at Presidio is to find effective new ways to understand and address the pressing needs of the market, society, and the environment. You will strategically explore the questions and problems that face you and an organization, now or in the future, to better understand how to build a flourishing future for all.

You may have seen this sentence on the Presidio Academic Program website page:

*We believe that **truly transformative ideas** can be found by following **the path of pragmatic inquiry—experience disciplined by reflection**. Our students learn to balance continuous testing of on-the-ground experience against high-level theory.*

This Pre-Work begins your “Arc of Pragmatic Inquiry” at Presidio.

Process:

Your Inquiry begins with defining the situation and challenges you see, the needs you think you can address, and then stating your initial ideas to meet those needs. During your Inquiry, you will test these ideas against the evidence from your experience and learning.

The outcome of your Inquiry will be to decide on the best course of action for you and your organization to implement and test these ideas.



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/). Corporantes, Inc.

Your Values and Vision

We are also asking you to evaluate your personal Values and why you believe those ideas are important to you. We want you to reflect upon your vision for the future – your hopes for the world – and see how your project will help shape that vision.

A major weakness of traditional problem-solving approaches is their lack of awareness around the assumptions (unstated contexts, paradigms) underlying the issue — or even what the real issues are.

This lack of awareness is ultimately rooted in a failure to account for a larger context and “world-view.” In your project, you will seek to align competing and diverse views and understand the greater implications.

That’s why we start with the baseline assumptions, Challenge/questions and ideas, as well as a statement of Values and Vision driving the Inquiry.

Pre-work - Your Career Direction

Take a few moments, prior to the first class on August 19, to think about and “sketch” answers to the following questions.

This Pre-work, brief as it is, will be useful during the course of your studies to help you reflect on and evaluate your career path and progress for sustainable development.

It is a baseline - a **hypothesis** to be tested. During the program, we will examine these questions again, to see what you are learning about your career direction. We hope that you will be surprised and challenged by what you learn and even change your career direction and project ideas.

We will discuss your Pre-work and the Arc of Pragmatic Inquiry at the orientation, so please bring this work with you. But it is **NOT** a formal assignment or essay. It is for you and will not be turned in.

Note: Write quickly your best thoughts, answers, hunches, guesses, dreams, intuitions to these 5 ?s

WHAT DOES THE WORLD NEED FOR ALL LIFE TO FLOURISH?

1. What market, society, or environmental need, problem, or opportunity do you see which you might address and solve through your career?

WHAT MUST BE OVERCOME - YOUR CHALLENGE

2. What challenge, question, barrier, concern, problem, issue do you face in meeting this need? We call this your Challenge/question **[Cq]**. Be aware of your own constraints as well as the competitive, social and market pressures, systems, values and beliefs in place now.

YOUR PRELIMINARY CAREER OR PROJECT IDEA

3. What is your best answer to your Challenge/question **[Cq]** now? What are your initial ideas for career paths to meet those needs? Do you have a specific project you plan to work on, or are working on now?
(This is the heart of Sustainable Development Strategy)

WHY YOU ARE INTERESTED IN YOUR PROJECT/IDEA?

4. WHAT ARE YOUR VALUES AND VISION: And how are your beliefs, goals, purpose, values and vision (the future you see; your “world-view”) guiding your thinking about your career and project? **Note:** They are what guided you to choose your project in the first place.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS

5. What are the next career steps you will take, or are taking now, based on your initial answers?