

# Young Men of Purpose

A Complete Mentoring Guide for Developing  
Successful Young Men

*“Written to inspire young men to effectively manage their lives,  
overcome obstacles, and passionately pursue their goals.”*

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# THREE MENTORING PRINCIPLES:

*“Building Character, Citizenship, and Academics”*

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## PRINCIPLE I: CHARACTER

**Your character allows you to become a man mentally.**

Your character is who you are as an individual, who you portray yourself to be, and who you are when no one else is watching you. Your character is shaped by the moral and spiritual values that you uphold and practice throughout your life.

**Character is essential for having a strong foundation.**

Before any tall structure can be built, the foundation must be dug deep into the ground. Once the foundation is deep enough and strong enough, the structure can be built up high. You need to be taught the characteristics that shape a successful man so your foundation will be strong. Once you have a strong foundation of character, you will stand tall as a leader in your community.

**Character teaches you the basic fundamentals for success.**

Before you can become great at anything, you have to learn the basics or fundamentals. Learning and practicing these fundamental life skills will strengthen your character and provide you with the tools to become a successful man. Once you understand the basic fundamentals of life, you need to share them with others through mentoring and participating in service projects in your community.

**Section focus:** This section of the guide will teach character, which are the inner qualities that you possess and shape you as an individual.

## PRINCIPLE II: CITIZENSHIP

### **Your life is a terrible thing to waste.**

Citizenship describes your behaviors, actions, and decisions that you make throughout each day. It is a proven fact that young men who make good choices throughout their lives succeed. Those who make poor decisions usually underachieve and live with regrets.

Many young men never reach their purpose because their actions lead them into situations that have negative effects on them for the rest of their lives. Being lazy, developing a negative attitude, and making poor choices will lead to consequences that will take your life on a negative course.

### **Life is full of obstacles and you must overcome them.**

In life, obstacles come in the form of distractions, temptations, and setbacks. These obstacles can take you away from your goals and cause you to fall short of your purpose.

**Section focus:** This section of the guide will provide recommendations for making good choices and strategies for overcoming obstacles that you will encounter throughout your life.

## **PRINCIPLE III: ACADEMICS**

### **Your academic experiences build upon each other.**

Whatever you do in elementary school will impact you in middle school. What you do in middle school will impact you in high school. What you do in high school will impact you in college, and what you do in college will impact you in the real world.

If you are unsuccessful at one level, that will hurt you as you go on to the next level. Most young men do not fail in school because they aren't capable. They fail because they do not take advantage of their educational opportunities.

### **An uneducated man cannot prosper.**

Without an education, you will be limited as you seek opportunities for employment and career advancement. This is due to the fact that most jobs require a high school diploma and a postsecondary degree or certification. High school dropouts put themselves at risk of being a negative statistic.

### **An educated man will have endless opportunities in life.**

When you graduate from high school and continue on to higher learning, vocational training, or enlist into the Armed Forces, you increase your opportunities for earning a good income for yourself. Completing a high level of education will allow you to become an ambassador in your community and a role model for others to follow.

**Section focus:** This section of the guide will encourage you to understand the educational process and value your opportunities.

Please visit [YoungMenOfPurpose.com](http://YoungMenOfPurpose.com) for more information and additional excerpts.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Roy Dobbs is an award-winning educator, who has served as a teacher, coach, Dean of Students, Assistant Principal, and Principal in both traditional and alternative school settings. In addition to these educational experiences, Roy Dobbs has served as the Principal of an all-male middle school. As the founder of the Young Men of Purpose Mentoring Program, he inspires today's young men to become tomorrow's leaders through teaching the importance of character, scholastic achievement, and service. He resides in Indianapolis, Indiana, with his wife, Kristen, and three children.

**Young Men of Purpose**

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