

Organizational Values



[SWIFAMILIES.ORG/SELF-ADVOCACY-SOLUTIONS](https://www.swifamilies.org/self-advocacy-solutions)

Organizational Values: Values Statement

Having a mission statement is important to the group, but some groups also choose to have a value statement. Value statements are short sentences that let the public know what is important to the self-advocacy group. They are based on the beliefs and values of the members of the group. Just like a mission statement, the values of the group help guide the group in everything it does.



What is important to you?

Value statements are based on what is important to the members of the self advocacy group. People may have different values so it's important to talk about what are the shared values in the group. It is these shared values that bring people together to work on achieving their goals. Successful self advocacy groups are made up of members who share the same values.



Value statements are different from mission statement because they don't need to include information such as goals and target audience. They are only statements based on what is important to you as a self advocacy group.

Writing your values statement

Values statement can be made up of as many shared values as you would like to share with the public. You can have one or two sentences or you can have several values you would like to share. Examples of value statements can include:

As a self advocacy group, we share the following values:

People with disabilities deserve to have the same rights as anybody else

People with disabilities should live in an inclusive community

People with disabilities have the right to speak up for themselves

As you can see in the example, the value statements are just short sentences that let the public know what you believe in. These value statements will help people decide if they would like to join you or partner with you in working to achieve the same goals.

Activity: Writing a Values Statement

Writing a values statement can be a simple three-step process. It is important that before you choose your values, you talk about what is important to you as members of the self advocacy group.



Step one: what is important to you?

It is important to talk about what each member of the group values the most. As a group, ask yourself the following questions and write down the responses on a large piece of paper. Remember, there are no wrong answers. You just want to know what are the values that everybody can agree on.

Think of what you believe in

What is most important to you?	
What do you believe in?	
What are your interests?	
What makes you happy?	

Step two: what do you have in common?

Once you have written down everyone's responses to the questions, it is now time to see which values you have in common. You may ask the group to circle the words or statements that are the most important to them. Remember, these are shared values so it's important that everybody agrees on these words or statements.



Step three: Forming your value statement

Now that you have identified the words or statements that everyone can agree on as being important, use them to form a value statement. Remember, value statements are just short sentences that tell people what is important to you as a self advocacy group.

This is what is important to us...
