

Write Your Own Credo

Steps 1-8 are to be written in your Composition Notebook.

1. Write down 10 **serious** things that you sincerely, deeply believe. Statements that you consider the philosophical, intellectual, spiritual bedrock of your life. Statements of belief that you are willing to fight for and possibly die for.
2. Write down 7 **silly** things that you believe, stuff that doesn't matter or is frankly irrational, but you believe anyway. It can be as light and fluffy as you like. Ex: "I believe that the Cheezit is far more delicious than the inferior Cheese-Nip" or "I believe it's fun when the electricity goes out."
3. Write down 5 things (serious or silly) that **you DO NOT believe**. Ex: "I do not believe in UFOs" or "I do not believe that skipping school is an offense worthy of punishment."
4. Write down 6 things (serious or silly) that **you will never do or believe no one should ever do**. Ex: "I will never say anything deliberately cruel" or "I will never like coconut."
5. Write down 8 things (serious or silly) **you believe everyone should do**. Ex: "Everyone should get up and see the sunrise at least once in his or her life" or "Everyone should have a dog."
6. Write down your **favorite quotation** ever, the one you think best expresses something you believe about life, what you might want under your senior picture in your high school yearbook. Be sure to quote the person who said your quotation. One of mine is, "Know thyself," which is credited to Socrates but is probably older than he is.
7. What is your **motto**? Mine is, "It's going to get better because it has to."
8. What is your **"life song"**—the song that you would have playing over the montage images of your life? Provide a title and singer/band/recording artist listed. Mine is "And So It Goes" by Billy Joel. (p.s. – My #8 changes every time I do this assignment.)

Step 9: Write Your Credo

Your credo *is a poem*. Don't freak out. Simply mix up and variate #1-7 of your beliefs. Get creative and consider how your credo *sounds*. The most memorable credos will mix the serious with the funny but will ultimately state what is most important to you. Begin like this:

Title your poem "Credo" followed by your name. Under your name, list the title of your life song and artist. Beneath the life song title, skip a line, and then state your beliefs. You must include your quote and your motto in there somewhere.

What kind of credit are you getting for this? I don't know yet. I want you to have fun first and think about the grade later. Will you have to read your credo aloud while your song plays in the background? Perhaps...sounds fun, right? I would not make something like that mandatory, though.

CREDO

Angela Breland Petix

“And So It Goes” by Billy Joel

I believe in faith, hope, and love and that God is love.
I believe that love is love and that all people deserve to be treated with dignity and respect.
We should never deny others their basic human rights.
I believe there is goodness somewhere in everyone and, therefore, do not believe in the death penalty.

I believe that the wealthy, healthy, and powerful are called to help the poor, sick, and disenfranchised.
I believe Earth naturally provides for her people, and one of her most versatile and delicious foods is the potato.
Everyone should have the burger at Chez FonFon, speaking of food.
However, I believe no one can cook as well as Audrey Breland.

I believe that education is power and that reading makes us smarter, funnier, more compassionate, more romantic, and just cooler in general.
I do not believe we are alone in the universe, which is somehow terrifying and comforting.
So we should stop the selfie thing because we're actually not that important in the grand scheme of the cosmos.
I believe, instead, we should be interacting. No virtual education for us.

I believe life is hard: a fifteen-year-old girl had both acne and grey hair and still has both well into her thirties.
I believe the word ‘lisp’ is cruel and that parenting ain't for sissies.
So we should all try to cut each other a little slack because really...
I do not believe it is difficult to just be kind to one another.

I believe it is important to “know thyself,” and this is what I know:
I will never jump out of a plane, and although I will never care about hunting season
I will always love awards season.
I should learn to live without something I think I can't live without.
And I believe that a good night's sleep solves most problems.

Finally, I believe these words should be spoken each and every day:
It will get better.
Thank you.
I love you.