reinvention university

"The beautiful journey of today can only begin when we learn to let go of yesterday."

Steve Maraboli

It's time to access your FULL POTENTIAL

The Reinvention University offers you a course that will help you make the changes in your life so you can access your full possibilities.

We all want to live a meaningful life where we make the difference, where we live with more passion and get to share our gifts with the world

I believe everyone has SOMETHING SPECIAL inside of them

We have set out on a journey where I get the opportunity to help you help yourself.

I have been through an incredibly painful period of my life. I lost virtually everything I built up. My world fell apart.

My life turned around ONLY when I allowed myself to look back over my life and give myself the chance to see where my journey had brought me, and to decipher my 'why.'

Looking at my life story became the pivotal point in my life. It reminded me of things long forgotten ... my dreams.

It showed me things long forgotten that were my natural gifts, those things I'd been good at from an early age... it showed me what was missing from my life as it currently was.

"My life journey challenges me to be better than I realized." Rohan Kar

It is essential for your reinvention that you take the time to review your life, integrate your memories and make sense out of what you've done and the things that have happened to you.

I'm not asking you to once again live in the past, but take a snap shot of where you've been so you can now have the freedom to create your future.

Neither do I want you to waste any more energy mourning those things you've lost or grieving about those terrible things that have happened to you.

THEY'REALLIN THE PAST

No one said CHANGE was easy

I'm aware how hard many of you will find this exercise. I'm asking you to write an overview of your life. Something many of you will have avoided doing. Not wanting to remember some of those things that have gone wrong.

Well I'm not asking you to spend long reflecting about any particular event, simply to just capture the sequence of events and memories that have made up your journey through life thus far.

Just know that taking on this challenge, laying out the route your life has taken, will begin to set in motion genuine long lasting positive change.

But here's a challenge. At the end of 12 weeks, when the course draws to it's conclusion, aim to have completed your biography, 'my life story to this point' or at least have the chapters and sections completed. The introduction and conclusion written.

I believe the most important thing that will come from re examining your journey is you'll find clues to what your purpose should be. The experiences and knowledge you have gained to this point have value, but what is it?

I remembered something wonderful from my youth

Yet it was at a time of so much unrest and unhappiness. But as a child I had a wonderful imagination and it got me through. I remember spending hours living in a fantasy world based on the books I had read.

I was enthralled by my day dreams and lost all sense of time.

"Once you have traveled, the voyage never ends, but is played out over and over again in the quietest chambers. The mind can never break off from the journey." Pat Conroy

My dreams guided me

I remembered vividly a few things:

My constant visualisation and day dreaming of me standing on stage as a personal development speaker

My love for appearing on stage from a young age, I smiled all the way through my memory of me as Joseph in Joseph and his technicolour dream coat.

My ability to communicate and connect with someone completely spaced out on drugs like no one else could

My love of debating society standing up and pronouncing my beliefs and defending them

The times I would sit and counsel people in despair and help them see the light way before I qualified as either a gym instructor or coach

The times I stood on stage whether speaking to a room of gym instructors learning to sell memberships or people interested in a diet program

The rewards I won for customer service, which really meant I gave people time to talk to me about their problems and I just listened

The times my life felt like I was in hell but where my mind stood strong and made me believe I could come out of this

The impact of attending a Tony Robbins 4 day seminar and once again connecting to my childhood dream

The times I've made speeches, at my daughters batmizvahs, my wedding, as a best man, sisters funeral and others where people have said you were born to speak.

There is so much more I could add, but hopefully you get the point, looking back reminded me of things long forgotten that pointed me in the direction my life was meant to take.

There are so many Benefits

Learn about yourself and become a better you

Enrich and enhance your life, stimulate your mind, expand your personal and spiritual growth and development

Inspire, encourage, instruct, and entertain others who share your particular ancestry, heritage, background, age, lifestyle, disability, illness, life challenge or opportunity

Honor the wonderful people, travels, cultures and other life experiences that have so enriched you



I am now using what I refer to 'my darkest times' as my own personal inspiration and the power of it to transform the lives of others.

Only by sharing my story, revealing my bankruptcy, house repossession and everything else could I come to realise how my troubles and the lessons I learnt be used to help others make better decisions.

You may inspire someone else with your story. Remember those challenges you conquered? What about those problems you solved?

Someone else, somewhere on the planet needs to hear how you did those things. They need to understand that it is possible and they need to be inspired by the way you conquered and solved them.



As I see most of you are in your thirty's, forty's, fifty's and sixty's. You have done and experienced quite a lot in your life, you have had your own successes and disappointments.

Now, you know you are ready for something better. But do you know your experiences could make all the difference.

This journey of reflection is the first step on the path towards developing your future. It will assist you in managing your life transition, it could well show you the way.

The reinvention university is all about taking your life from where it is right now (CURRENT LOCATION) to the place you want to be (DESIRED DESTINATION).

But its important to track the route your life has taken to this point. Where you've been matters to help you find where you truly want to go.

What I am not asking you to do

I don't want you to relive the memories, particularly the bad ones. We want to gain a general perspective of what has led you to the point you've reached, but not analyse those things that have happened.

Your goal with the Life Story is to picture the people, places, experiences or influences that have occurred in your life and tell your life 'story' from your childhood through to the present.

By doing this you'll explore the many different factors that have shaped who and where you are today.

As you see how these life stages play out in your own story, you'll gain powerful insights on how things have developed so far and it will give you some understanding to what's going on in your life today.

Inspiration is the driving force that steers you to your computer to tap away at the keys and compels you to keep going. So remember this story is being written to clear your path for the future.

I hope you will put your heart into this, and start to write your own story. It's a guide to walk you through the journey of your life to this point.

Method

- Buy a pack of lined index cards. Write one story or situation idea on each card.
 - When you have written down all the significant events and memories you can think of. Spread the cards around on a table and think about the way they link up, the chronological order.
- Are there any gaps? Add extra cards for topics that are missing? Alternatively use sticky notes. When completed stick them down onto an A1 piece of card and then start moving them around into the right order.

Your Early Childhood

- What is the earliest thing that you can remember?
- What was your mother tongue and culture?
- What were your favourite nursery rhymes or bedtime stories?
- Did you have any imaginary playmates or special daydreams?
- Describe how your family celebrated holidays.
- What was your favourite food?
- What kinds of foods did your parents cook?
- Describe your favourite toys and clothes.
- When did you first start helping with chores?
- Describe your early chores.
- What hobbies did you have?
- What did you do in the evenings?
- Describe your relationships with aunts, uncles and cousins.
- Did you have a pet?
- Do you remember the first house you lived in? How about the second house, or other places?
- How many times did you move? How did you feel about moving?
- Describe any historical events in the community or province that you witnessed as a child.

Early School Days

- What are the first thoughts you can remember regarding school?
- When did you start? How old were you?
- Describe the first school you attended.
- What did you wear on the first day?
- How did you feel on the first day?
- How did you get to school?
- Who was your first teacher? What were your initial impressions of him or her? Did these impressions change?
- Who were your friends?
- What kinds of books did you use? What was your favourite library book?
- What was your favourite subject? How about your least favourite one?
- How did you spend recess and lunch hour?
- Favourite lunches?
- Add any humorous, interesting or unusual anecdotes about your school days.
- What did you do during summer vacation?
- What times were the most fun in school?
- What was disappointing?

Teen and High School Years

- How do you think society changed from the time you were a child until the time you were a teenager?
- Describe any historical events (locally or provincially) that you experienced.
- What was happening in the world at this time?
- Were there any major changes in your own family's way of life?
- Did you have a concept of being a "teen" as compared to that experienced by teens in recent decades?
- What was expected of you as you grew older?
- Were there any special celebrations of any birthdays or other important events in your life?
- What were your favourite past-times?
- Describe social events in which you took part. What did you enjoy doing?
- Who were your friends?
- Any interesting or humorous events you can recall about these years?
- What were your professional goals at this time?
- Favourite books or movies?
- Did you go to high school?
- What was your first impression of high school?
- What teachers influenced you most in these years?
- Where did you live when you attended high school?

Higher Education

- Did you choose the lifestyle/career that you had wanted in your younger years?
- How did you feel about leaving home?
- What was your first impression of your institution of higher learning?
- Where did you live?
- What were your favourite subjects, professors, or instructors?
- Who were your close friends?
- What were you wearing? Describe your hair-style at that time.
- Any new hobbies or interests?
- Did you win any awards or scholarships?
- What was your philosophy of life then?

Career

- Can you recall applying for your first job?
- What did you wear for your job interview?
- Describe your first job, the tasks expected and wages received.
- What did you buy with your first wages?
- Describe a typical work day.
- What was your pay?
- Where did you live at that time?
- What other jobs followed?
- What jobs were the most rewarding?
- What aspects of a job did you most enjoy?
- Special colleagues?
- Any anecdotes arising from work?

Courtship, Marriage. Commitment

- Describe your very first "date" or whatever you called it at the time.
- Where did people meet in your community?
- Where did you go on dates?
- Did you attend local dances?
- When and where did you meet your future spouse or partner?
- When did you realize you were in love?
- Did you get engaged? Where?
- How did your families react? Interact?
- How did you decide the date of your wedding?
- What were your partner roles as you understood them?
- Were they like others at the time?
- Did these roles change during your life?

Your Wedding

- How did you plan your wedding or other celebration?
- Did you have a shower or bachelor party?
- Describe the events of your wedding. (Date, location, clergy, attendants, clothing, guests, memories of the reception, gifts you received.)
- Did you go on a honeymoon?
- Relate any anecdotes about the wedding and honeymoon you might recall.
- What happened in the world the day of your wedding?

Early Relationship

- What was the most difficult part of being together?
- What were your happiest moments then?
- How did you resolve any disagreements?
- What qualities did you admire most in your spouse or partner then?
- Did you have a budget? Did you manage on it?
- What helped you the most during the early years of being together?
- Did you have any serious illnesses, economic difficulties or other problems in these years?
- What special memories of those years do you have?
- What advice would you give a person contemplating marriage today?

Starting a Family

- Were you prepared to become a parent?
- What kind of a parent did you want to be to your children?
- How did you feel when you found out a child was on the way?
- How did you prepare for the baby's arrival?
- Did you have any pregnancy complications?
- Describe the circumstances of your child's birth.
- How did you choose his or her name?
- Describe seeing your baby for the first time.
- What changes did the baby bring to your household?
- What did you most enjoy about being a new parent? Difficult moments?
- Describe any special clothes or gifts received.
- How was the arrival of your next child different from the first (or the others)?
- How did your oldest child or children react?

Raising a Family

- Describe the places and houses in which you lived as the family grew.
- Did you try to save money? How?
- What chores did your children have to do?
- List your children's favourite games, past-times and foods.
- Describe any memorable clothing in the family.
- What memorable things did your children say?
- Describe: holiday celebrations, family birthdays, vacations, vehicles, special friends, pets.
- Relate any family traditions...cultural, unique, comical, etc.
- What did you think was most important for children to learn as they were growing up?

Religious Activities

- Describe your earliest religious experience and particular impressions.
- Record any childhood prayers learned.
- Did you have a special prayer area in your home?
- What places of worship did you attend?
- Describe any memorable religious leaders or religious members.
- How important is your faith in relation to the rest of your life?
- List important religious dates (baptisms, confirmations, marriages, funerals) and where the rite occurred. How did you feel at this time?

Clubs and Organizations

- To what clubs, groups or organizations did you and your family belong?
- Did you help to found any of them?
- Any important club activities?
- Special friends made?
- Have you met or known any "famous" social, political or religious leaders personally? Any anecdotes?
- Any stories of people helping others in a major way?

Accomplishments and Goals

- What have been your three most important accomplishments in life?
- How did they come about?
- What do you consider to be an outstanding talent, ability, craft or skill that you have?
- Describe any creative endeavours in which you have been involved: music, literature, arts, inventions, etc.

Highlights and Special Thoughts

- What was the most difficult time of your life?
- How did you deal with it?
- If you had to live through it again, what changes would you make?
- What was the best time of your life? What made it so?
- What was one of the funniest things that ever happened to you?
- Who have been your best friends over the years?
- What makes for a lasting friendship?
- Who made the most profound impression on you through the years?
- What were their outstanding qualities?
- What do you most admire in your spouse or partner today?
- What do you consider a favourite book, movie or play today?
- List any proverbs or sayings that have helped you over the years.
- What has been your "formula for living?"

What are the key points of your story, what are the most relevant things in your life family, career, travel, or all of these with equal emphasis?

Once you have completed your story, ask yourself these two things:

What patterns do you see in the personal inclinations, pivotal decisions, unique opportunities and transforming experiences of your history?

Is there anything that comes to mind that you see that you were being uniquely prepared for, even in painful experiences?

One of the greatest gifts we can give to others is to tell them our life story and let them hear about all the things we have experienced and learnt. Why allow others to make the same mistakes we have.

