

A Personal Philosophy

By Bob Krone

Dedicated to Mae Sue Krone, whose love, guidance,
and partnership nurtured its evolution

Abstract

After a life of diverse professional activities, including earning a doctor of philosophy degree and editing the *Journal of Space Philosophy*, Bob Krone decides to describe the origins and evolution of his own values and philosophy.

Keywords: values, learning, self-examination, teaching, leadership, academics, systems, space, philosophy, humanity.

Introduction

Michel Montaigne (1533-1592) is credited with inventing the essay form with his classic work *Essais* (1st Edition, 1580). He lived and reworked his essays in a French rural retreat after being the Mayor of Bordeaux from 1581-1585. Since then, essays have traditionally been short statements feeling their way towards expression of what needs a far wider space to exhaust. Using the Montaigne essay style here, I have not provided specific references for statements throughout this article. Interested readers can find my complete resume/curriculum vitae at www.bobkrone.com/node/103.

Every human being has a personal life philosophy. It was formed by a complex lifetime mix of genetics, environment, and learning over time. A small percentage of humans have explicitly documented their own philosophy as an analysis of their own value systems, or to understand the values, sources, and influences on their beliefs over time. My definition of *values* – created during my doctoral studies at UCLA – is “Values are principles or things preferred.” That is different from the economic definition of value, which is usually oriented toward quantitative worth. Philosophy and values are not synonymous, but have many commonalities. Philosophy is oriented toward total life meaning, while values form the components of that totality.

Most people’s personal philosophy is created and evolves from experiences and just living, not from conscious reflection and design. Is that not the best way to develop philosophy? For some, it may be. But the belief I bring to this article is that individual, family, group, organization, agency, business, society, national, international, and human existence would improve with wiser and more explicit self-examination of values and philosophy. There is value in knowing answers to the questions: *What do I believe?* and *How should my beliefs impact my behavior?*

Dr. Paul R. Cone was my mentor for two university faculty appointments – the University of Southern California in 1975 and La Sierra University, Riverside, California in 1992. Paul was a wise, compassionate, and brilliant leader in both academics and business. One of the many lessons I learned from Paul Cone he had condensed into

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Table of Contents Sample Personal Philosophy Paper

1. Understanding the eBook Sample Personal Philosophy Paper
 - The Rise of Digital Reading Sample Personal Philosophy Paper
 - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
2. Identifying Sample Personal Philosophy Paper
 - Exploring Different Genres
 - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
 - Determining Your Reading Goals
3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
 - Popular eBook Platforms
 - Features to Look for in an Sample Personal Philosophy Paper
 - User-Friendly Interface
4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from Sample Personal Philosophy Paper
 - Personalized Recommendations
 - Sample Personal Philosophy Paper User Reviews and Ratings
 - Sample Personal Philosophy Paper and Bestseller Lists
5. Accessing Sample Personal Philosophy Paper Free and Paid eBooks
 - Sample Personal Philosophy Paper Public Domain eBooks

- Sample Personal Philosophy Paper eBook Subscription Services
- Sample Personal Philosophy Paper Budget-Friendly Options
- 6. Navigating Sample Personal Philosophy Paper eBook Formats
 - ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
 - Sample Personal Philosophy Paper Compatibility with Devices
 - Sample Personal Philosophy Paper Enhanced eBook Features
- 7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
 - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of Sample Personal Philosophy Paper
 - Highlighting and Note-Taking Sample Personal Philosophy Paper
 - Interactive Elements Sample Personal Philosophy Paper
- 8. Staying Engaged with Sample Personal Philosophy Paper
 - Joining Online Reading Communities
 - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
 - Following Authors and Publishers Sample Personal Philosophy Paper
- 9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books Sample Personal Philosophy Paper
 - Benefits of a Digital Library
 - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection Sample Personal Philosophy Paper
- 10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
 - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
 - Minimizing Distractions
 - Managing Screen Time
- 11. Cultivating a Reading Routine Sample Personal Philosophy Paper
 - Setting Reading Goals Sample Personal Philosophy Paper
 - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
- 12. Sourcing Reliable Information of Sample Personal Philosophy Paper
 - Fact-Checking eBook Content of Sample Personal Philosophy Paper
 - Distinguishing Credible Sources
- 13. Promoting Lifelong Learning
 - Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
 - Exploring Educational eBooks

14. Embracing eBook Trends

- Integration of Multimedia Elements
- Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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