

## Free time to be creative is essential, if you are serious about change.

## By Nick Freedman

Time is a fascinating concept. Your life is orientated around the cyclical ebb and flow of time. What time is lunch? Where do I need to be at, by a certain time in my life? What amount of work must I complete by the end of the week? How is my life progressing, in comparison to other people of the same age ?

And yet, when you tune into each of your physical senses, of sight, sound, taste, touch and smell, time cannot be perceived or grasped by the senses. You cannot find time as a tangible thing. Rather, it is a concept, which charts the movement of physical objects through space. It also creates the idea of a past, present and future, so that all events don't happen at the same time. We need time in our lives,
and yet it can be the source of great frustration and pain; 'I don't have enough time to do what I want'; 'I'm going to miss the deadline, and that's going to be bad news'; 'I'm watching my life pass before my eyes', are all common complaints about time not working out in our favour.

With time being such an illusory concept that cannot be fully grasped through the senses, consider instead, that each minute of your day has a value of 1 dollar. So everyday starts with a fresh balance of $\$ 1440$. A week is worth over 10 grand, and a year equates to over half a million dollars. This simple idea can help make time more tangible, in order to learn how to become a champion of your time, rather than a slave to it.

The next point to understand is that everyone is given the same amount of time at the start of every day. It's one aspect of being human, which everyone has in common; no-one can buy more time. And at the end of the day, every dollar which you were given has been spent and used up. There's no bank where you can deposit your unused or spare time for a rainy day. So the questions which arise from this idea are; How are you choosing to spend your money? What is getting wasted? What is being spent wisely? What do good spending habits look like?

The purpose of the Time Champion practice is to help you learn how to manage and use your time mindfully to create a better future for yourself.

Write down all the challenges you face managing your time.


# 80\% of the results in your life, come from $20 \%$ of the effort your apply. 

In 1906 a European economist named Vilfredo Pareto, discovered that $80 \%$ of the financial wealth which existed in Italy, was owned by $20 \%$ of the people. This principle, which he suggested was then transposed into many other other areas of life, where similar effects were replicated. The Pareto Principle, also known as the 80/20 Principle states that for many events, $80 \%$ of the effects, arise from only $20 \%$ of the causes. Consider your clothes for a moment, and reflect on how often you wear your favourite pair of jeans or shoes, in comparison to the rest your wardrobe. Then think about your mobile phone contacts and your frequently dialled numbers. There will be a few people ( $20 \%$ ) you call a lot of the time, and lot of people ( $80 \%$ ) you call rarely.

This principle, which illustrates the law of the vital few, can be useful in your journey to become a time champion. Look at the simple diagram below and you'll see that for all the effort you apply in your life, a small proportion ( $20 \%$ ) is where the greatest results $(80 \%)$ originate from. The first way you can apply this principle to create your ideal life, is to plan your time the $80 / 20$ way.

The average person will take 9 hours sleep each night, leaving 15 hours of waking time. A large chunk of this time which you are given each day is simply going to be used up maintaining your life.

Activities such as working, travelling, eating, cleaning, caring for children and socialising all get included in what we call standard time. Some maybe routine maintenance tasks, others might be fun, some arduous. What all these activities all have in common is they keep the wheels of life moving. This standard time, is what constitutes the largest portion of your day, and for some people who frequently complain of having no spare time, will fill up the day. There is a simple way to apply the $80 / 20$ principle to become more creative.


To create your ideal reality, you'll need to set aside around $20 \%$ of your waking time, which you can use to effectively plan, reflect on and generate change in your life. What this looks like is 20 hours a week, or 3 hours each day. This is called creative time. We define creative time, as follows: Applying effort to the essential actions that will make your ideal future a reality. These types of activities include visualisation, completing future focussed actions, journalling about the day and what you learned, meditation and anything which will close the gap between your present reality and the ideal life you are creating (defined in the vision builder tool).

The next principle to understand in relation to how to plan and manage your time is the effort you apply in your life to generate results. The simple matrix illustrated below, builds some useful distinctions between different types of activities you complete in life and what kind of results they give you. You'll see the vertical axis illustrates the effort that's applied and the horizontal axis shows the result you create, for the effort that's made.


Standard time has 2 types of activities. Standard time fillers, which take little effort and deliver very little in return. Thankless standard activities take a lot of effort and also only deliver small results in life. Creative time also has 2 types of activities. The first are big creative projects. These take a lot of effort and deliver big results. You'll be taking on some big creative projects on your manifestor journey. The 2nd is quick creative wins, which take less effort and still deliver big results.

To be a time champion, you'll need to leverage the quick creative wins and also build stamina for the big creative projects. Overleaf, there's an exercise that will help you reflect on how you currently split your time between standard and creative activities.

## How much creative time did you allocate last week to making your ideal future real?

It's important to develop clarity about how you currently schedule your time. Most people find that a large portion of their week gets filled with activities that are all about keeping the wheels of life moving (standard time). Whilst many of these actions are essential and necessary, it is also important to schedule sufficient space to take on actions that generate positive change to help you create your ideal future reality.

Reflect on all the things you did the week before you signed up for manifestor, both in your work and personal life (ignore time spent asleep). If you like, use the back of this page to list of them all. Then categorise and record them in the table below. When complete, roughly calculate how many hours were standard and how many were creative. What do you observe? Did you have 20 creative time hours?

| 'STANDARD TIME' ACTIVITIES LAST WEEK <br> (Activities which keep the wheels of life moving, <br> but have zero impact on you creating a better future) | 'CREATIVE TIME' ACTIVITIES LAST WEEK |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  |



## "Let him who would enjoy his future,

 waste none of his present".Roger Babson


## Here's some simple suggestions to help you prioritise \& plan more creative time.

Finding 20 spare hours is often a challenging exercise. In the modernised world, with multiple streams of communication and the media advising you to fill your life with more, it can easily seem as though time has got the better of you. A few simple ideas \& shifts of perception can help you change this.

If your life is bursting with activity and you can plan less than 5 hours of creative time, you'll find it hard to cause any kind of lasting change, as time is an essential part of the mix. There will be some events which you are saying yes to, that although maybe fun, are not aligned with you achieving your vision. If this is true for you, the phrase 'No thanks, I've got other plans' will come in handy. Saying no to more things will quickly generate the time you need to create your ideal future.

If you apply perfectionist tendencies to everything you do, you'll find that your spare time will be limited. Ask yourself what projects and activities need you to aim for the $100 \%$ and which will be ok at $80 \%$. By letting go of the need to always be perfect, you'll generate the time to create your ideal life.

If you seem to be always doing things for other people and putting them first, this can seem noble and altruistic, but when done in excess, your own life potential is reduced. If you know you put other people before yourself most of the time, ask yourself 'what do I want for me?' The answer may take some time to uncover and when you get insights, that will help you to start focussing on your own ideal future.

If you don't keep a diary and instead like to go with the flow, you may find that your life becomes unplanned and lacking structure. If this sounds familiar, try out planning a week and see what happens. You'll probably increase your level of focus on what needs to be done to create your ideal life.

If you're still struggling, ask yourself these 2 questions: 'Is what I'm filling my time with today, more important than me living the life of my dreams?' 'In ten years time, which will have been more important, saying yes to (insert activity), or saying yes to causing my ideal future to become a real and present experience in my life?'

## Schedule 1 hour of creative time for 5 days and achieve 3 quick wins each day.

The two core capabilities that need to be learned and embodied to become a time champion are to leverage quick wins daily and to build stamina for big creative projects. The 5 day challenge will help you learn how to leverage quick wins daily. There are 2 steps to complete the challenge:

Step 1 - book one hour of creative time, every day, for 5 days. Step 2 - use the hour mindfully, to complete creative activities.

The first 2 quick wins, you learn on the manifestor program. The suggestion is to allocate 20 minutes to each of these activities. Meditation is a quick win, because the more you practice it, the easier you will be able to achieve results using the creative visualisation process. Journalling is a quick win
because it will help you develop the great habit of putting pen to paper, to reflect on daily experiences of life.

The third quick win is different each day. These activities have been created to help you learn that there is always time to do the important things. They each have a different flavour to them to help you have fun whilst learning the art form of leveraging quick wins daily. Use your journal for any notes you want to make for each activity.
Day 1

# Work your way up to scheduling 20 20 hours of creative time every week. 

With the 5 day challenge complete, you're now ready to start increasing the amount of time you schedule and use for creative activities. It is a rare person who can shift time habits overnight, so we've made the journey easier by suggesting an increase of creative time each week, for 4 weeks.

By planning 5 extra hours of creative time each week, after a month you'll be using the 80/20 principle to manage your life. The diagram below shows you how to increase the number of hours each week until you reach 20. Also included in the time champion tool, on the next 4 pages are blank weekly schedules, should you like to plan this way. Most people these days utilise electronic calendars, so don't feel you need to use these pages if you have a time planning system that works well for you already.

| week | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| HOURS OF CREATIVE | 5 | 10 | 15 | 20 |

On average, we spend between 40 and 50 hours at work each week. And often it is the demands of work commitments that stand in the way of living the life you want. As such, it is important to develop strong habits in how you manage yourself in the workplace, to enable you to leave on time and focus on creating your ideal future life. The following are some suggestions of how you can work effectively whilst at work:

- Put boundaries around creative time.
- Say no more often.
- Build focussing capacity through meditation.
- For perfectionists, know when $80 \%$ will do.
- For serial helpers, ask 'what do I want?'
- Organise your week with a diary.
- Finish what you start (small, quick tasks).
- Master the art of delegation.
- Turn off email / phone app notifications.
- Limit social media time to parts of the day.
- Listen to what others are saying.
- Reflect on what works for you, then do it.
- Do it now. Don't wait.
- Balance high activity with periods of rest.


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Reflect on these questions once a week, for 4 weeks to raise your time awareness and develop positive time habits.

What have I learned this week about my time habits?

What did I do this week to generate more creative time?

How did I lose time, by being ineffective in some way?

What habit will I change to avoid this happening again?

What bottlenecks are on the horizon that will eat up my time?

What will I do to mitigate, or reduce the impact of them?

## Your Manifestor Journey



## Social Learning Gym

If you like to study in a social environment with others, the social learning gym is worth exploring. Spanning across 4 weeks, you'll join other manifestors in a weekly online workshop, as well as getting 1 -to-1 mentoring from Nick. You can join the public program, or book Nick directly to facilitate a learning gym for you and 8-10 of your friends, (you find a venue, then we work together with our video technology).

Visit www.manifestor.tv or email clarity@nickfreedman.com.au to find out more.

## About Nick Freedman

Since 2002, Nick Freedman has been designing and facilitating programs which have helped 1000s to transform their lives and businesses from the inside out. His clients include organisations like Salesforce, Yahoo, Westpac, AoL, Ronald McDonald House \& Coca-Cola, as well as 100s of SMEs \& not for-profits.

To gain more insight into Nick and the inspiration behind why he built the manifestor program, watch his TEDx talk "10 questions I asked the ocean" at www.nickfreedman.com.au


