

Create a 12 Month Success Plan

{self-paced exercise 5 of 5 in Success Series}

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Success Series : Create a 12 Month Success Plan

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You're almost finished! This self-paced exercise is the last of five exercises in the Pink Spark Creative **Success Series** and it will help you create a 12 month **Success Plan**. This is the easiest and the hardest of the five exercises. There are two different ways to approach this exercise: Work through it all in one sitting or read through it, make notes and tackle it slowly. There is no right or wrong way to do it.

Are you ready? Grab your favorite pen, some paper, your planner or calendar and go plan your success!

In the first exercise you determined what your success looks like and that is an important part of creating your 12 month success plan.

What did yours look like? Think about how you described it as you work through this exercise.

Remember when you set a date to achieve your success? Have you already worked your way to it? If not, this is one of the first events you can put on your calendar or in your planner. I'm a paper planner kind of gal so I will always put everything there first and then put it in my digital calendar.

If you still have to work toward this date you can also add the actions you needed to complete to your calendar or planner. So you can probably see where this is going and continue adding the rest of the actions as well as add in your check-up date(s). This will get you started and allow you to make realistic decisions on how long these actions will take.

Writing activities to be completed in your planner or adding them in your digital calendar will keep you focused on the most important tasks. It may help to have an easy way to prioritize tasks such as color-coding. Crossing tasks off or marking them done is not only a rewarding feeling, but it also helps you see how much you have accomplished.

In the second exercise you identified your dreams, intentions and goals and may have even gone ahead and mapped them out in your calendar or planner.

If you've already completed all of your goals, it's time to do the goal exercise again! Your goals, whether new or older ones you're still working on, will have a definite deadline or time when they need to be completed. Many times you'll also have some action steps to complete along the way. All of this can be added to your 12 month plan.

Keeping track of what needs to be done next will help you reach your goals more efficiently. Many goals may be long-range and require frequent updating, so be sure to allow for some flexibility. Don't be too hard on yourself if some tasks take longer than planned or are more difficult to complete than anticipated.

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Remember the third exercise where you dug deep and identified your strengths and weaknesses?

That was a tough exercise wasn't it?! Well, review your strengths and weaknesses and see how you can work toward capitalizing on your strengths and improving your weaknesses. Are there any actionable steps you can add to your plan? Consider approaching these changes by working on them using the technique in the second exercise. Now add these new goals and action items to your plan!

Lastly, think about the three words for success you chose in the fourth exercise.

Focus on the main word first and make sure that all of the actions items, goals and plans you making are in line with this word. If not, work on them until they feel right. Sometimes you just have to approach things a little differently for them to make sense. As you continue through this exercise, check to see if your secondary words are being addressed. Again, if they aren't, keep working. Trust me, eventually you will get all the pieces to fit properly! Your 12 month success plan is a sort of puzzle for sure!

You made it! You have created your 12 month success plan! These exercises can be done every year or whenever you feel you need to reevaluate yourself or your business. Growth and change take time and these exercises will help you work through them time and time again.

Did you find this exercise helpful? If so, please drop me an email at lisa@pinksparkcreative.com and let me know how your success feels. If you are having some difficulty or you found this exercise complicated, time-consuming or ineffective, I want to know that too. If you know someone who may benefit from this exercise, share it with them!

This is the last exercise in the Success Series, but the learning doesn't need to stop! Be sure to visit the Pink Spark Creative Facebook page and website to fresh information, lots of resources and to schedule a coaching session. I'm also working on launching a Pink Spark Creative Group, "Spark 101" very soon. This will be a great place for creative and small business owners to interact, ask questions, receive feedback and grow their businesses together.

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