

Your wealth in 3-D

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Wealth is not just a collection of assets but is composed of who you are (personal wealth), what you have (financial wealth) and how you can make a difference (social wealth), say Monroe Diefendorf, the fourth-generation chief executive of Diefendorf Capital Planning Associates, and financial planner Robert Sterling Madden, co-authors of the *3 Dimensional Wealth*.

For your wealth in each category to grow, Diefendorf and Madden suggest writing three essays, at 250 words each:

Personal wealth. Take inventory of yourself to find out who you want to be. "Your personal wealth takes shape when you address who you are physically, intellectually, spiritually, socially, professionally and how you view relationships."

Financial wealth. This not just your financial assets but also indicates what values are most important to you. Answer the questions: How do you spend your money? What are your greatest financial successes and your greatest financial failures? What's important about money?

Social wealth. This talks about how your wealth can make a difference, by giving money and your time and energy. Ask yourself how you give. Describe to whom you give your time, talent and money, the greatest rewards and the greatest shortcomings in your efforts.

Writing your essays should lead to new insight about how you handle your wealth and what more you could be doing to improve areas of your life.

SOURCE: MarketWatch.com