



When you've decided on a major goal, how do you plan out the steps to reach it? Part of your planning includes the question, "What's important to reach my goal?" By being specific about the big things, we can make sure that we do what's needed to get us there. This is called "setting priorities."

Develop a Strategy

Let's say you've decided you want to save enough money to buy a house. In order to do that, you need to save \$100 extra each month. One of the important steps might be to open a savings account specifically for this. Then, every payday, you'll deposit \$50 into the account. In order to have an extra \$50 to deposit, you might have to work five hours of overtime in each pay period. That's important to reaching your goal. So the overtime becomes a priority.

Know What's Important

After you've saved \$300, you see a class advertised that can teach you how to buy real estate. The tuition is \$300. Well, you say, you're going to buy some real estate, so you wonder if you should take that class and spend the \$300. Isn't your goal to buy a house? Of course, with your timetable, you won't be in the market for another three years, and by then some of the information you spent your savings on may be outdated.

Investigate Alternatives

Some activities take a lot of time, effort and money but don't help you reach your goal. You realize that your goal is to save enough money to buy a house, something that may never happen if you spend your money on things you don't need right now, such as real estate classes. Instead, you decide to read books from the library for free. Then, when the time comes to buy a house, you'll take a class if you still feel that you need it.

Reaching Your Goal

By looking at your goal and your plan to reach it, you'll be able to put your own priorities in place. That's the way to reach your destination.

HOW TO SET PRIORITIES