

Clarifying Your Team's Purpose

- Each team member takes 1 to 2 minutes to write one sentence which describes the purpose of the team. The sentences might begin with, “We exist in order to ...” or “Our team’s main purpose is to...”
- Members work in pairs for about 5 minutes to share their individual sentences and to create one new statement that satisfies both participants.
- Bring entire team together to share their purpose statements and to create one new statement that satisfies the entire team.
- Post all of the statements generated by the individual groups on flip charts and discuss as a whole team, highlighting the key parts of each group’s statement. Discuss the similarities and common themes between all the statements.
- Note on a separate sheet, or board the common areas and agree on which ones need to be retained and those that should be discarded.
- Working as a team, develop a combined statement of one or two sentences that captures the essence of the team’s thinking. Write the team’s agreed upon purpose on a flip chart.