

PHILOSOPHY
The Study of the fundamental nature of existence, of man, and of man's relationship to existence.

The Theoretical Foundation of Philosophy

Metaphysics
The Theory of Reality
The Study of Existence as Such

Alternative #1 **Where Am I?** Alternative #2

- In a universe which is ruled by natural laws.
- It is stable, firm, absolute and knowable.
- The things I see around me are real and exist independent of any observer.
- Things are what they are and can not be wished to be otherwise.
- Things are the object of my consciousness.

- In an incomprehensibly chaotic universe.
- It is a realm of inexplicable miracles – unpredictable and unknowable.
- The things I see around me are only an illusion created in my own mind.
- Things can be changed by a mere act of my consciousness.
- Things are the subject of my consciousness.

Epistemology
The Study of the Theory of Knowledge

Alternative #1 **How do I Know What I Know?** Alternative #2

- Man acquires knowledge by a process of reason.
- Reason is a faculty that identifies and integrates the material provided by man's senses.
- Man's knowledge is gained and held in conceptual form.
- Reason is competent to perceive reality.
- Man can know reality with certainty at the current level of his knowledge.

- Man acquires knowledge by a sudden revelation from a supernatural power.
- Reason is a faculty fed by innate ideas that were implanted in man's mind before he was born.
- Man's knowledge consists of automatic instincts and is held as vague emotional responses to mysterious events.
- Man possesses a cognitive faculty that is superior to reason.
- Man can know nothing with certainty and must live in perpetual doubt of his consciousness.

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The Technology of Philosophy
Applies only to Man – to his character, actions, values, and relationship to all existence.

Ethics (Morality)
The Theory of Moral Values
Defines a code of values to guide man's choices and actions that determine the course of his life.

Alternative #1 **What should I Do?** Alternative #2
What is good or evil for man – and why?

- Commit to a quest for joy.
- Hold self-fulfillment as the goal of man's life.
- Man should pursue his own values.
- Man should seek his own happiness.
- The moral is the understood and the chosen.

- Commit to avoiding suffering.
- Hold self-renunciation as the goal of man's life.
- Man should place the interests of others above his own.
- Man should serve and sacrifice for others.
- The moral is the imposed and the obeyed.

Politics and Economics
The Theory of Legal Rights and Government which defines the principles of a proper social system

Alternative #1 **How should I treat other men?** Alternative #2

- Protect the rights of the individual.
- Create a free government that protects its citizens from aggressors and from injustice.
- Establish the system of Capitalism.

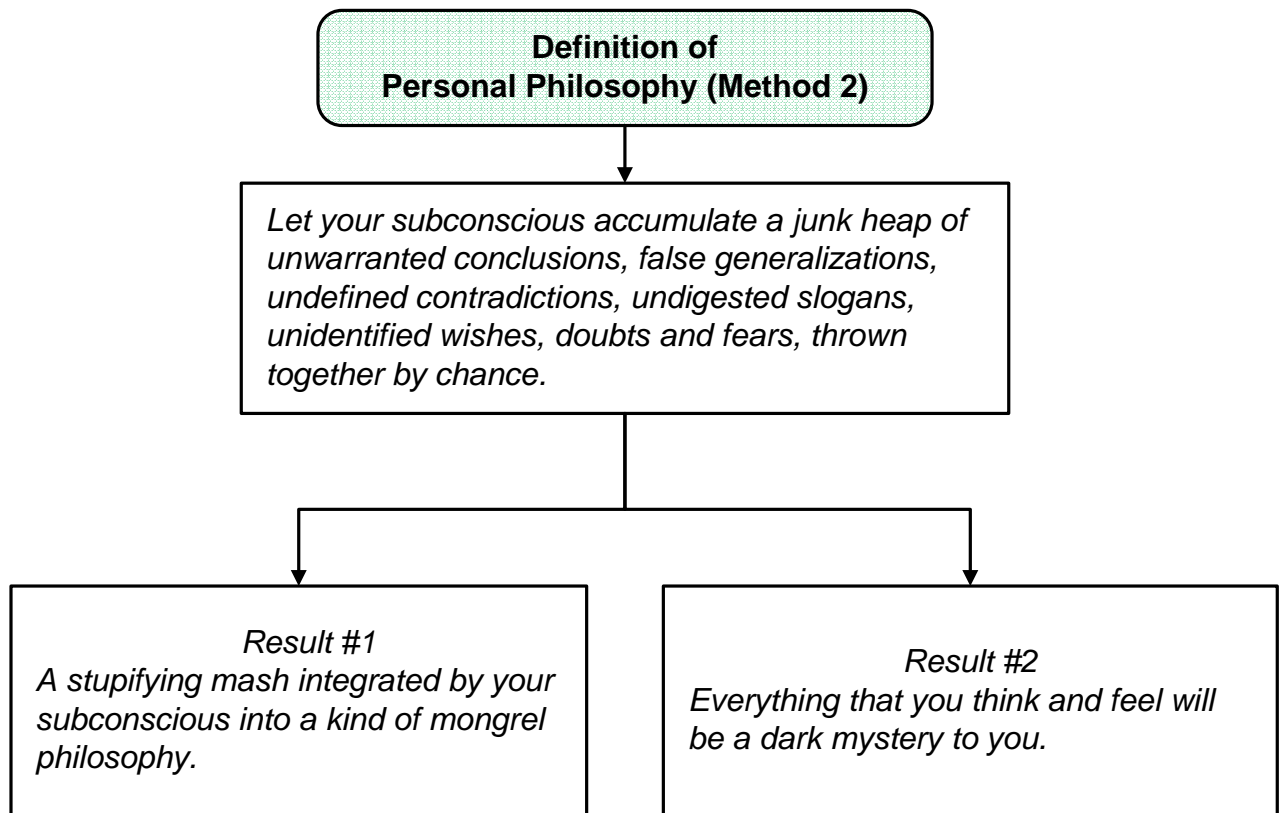
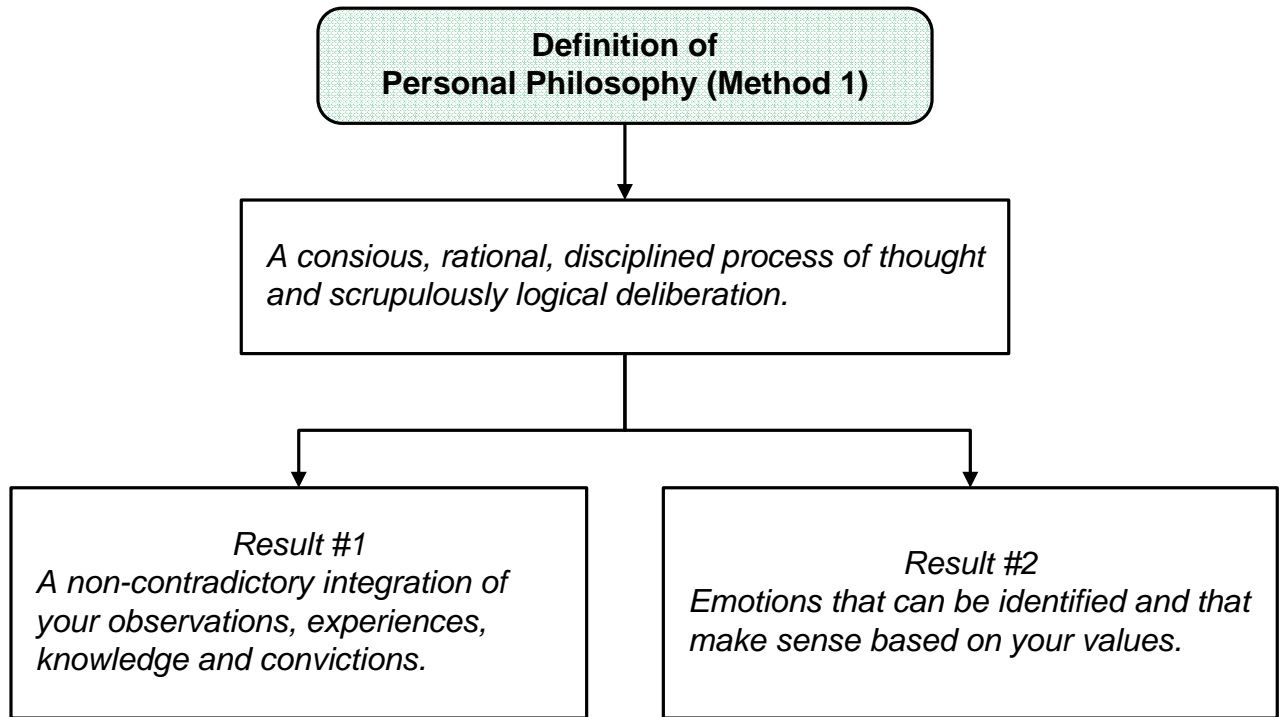
- Subjugate the individual to the state.
- Create a totalitarian government that enslaves some men for the use of other men.
- Establish the system of Collectivism.

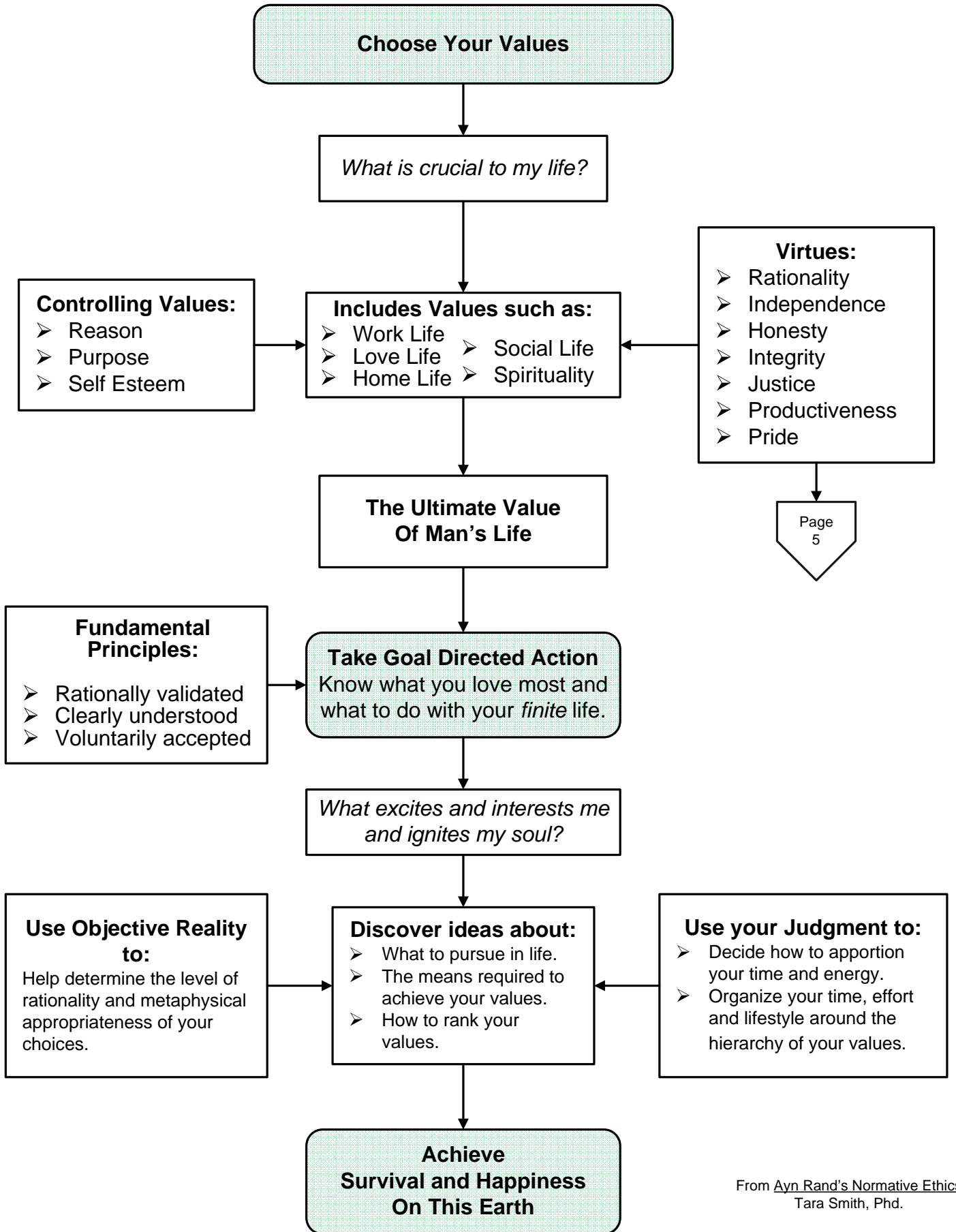
Aesthetics
The Theory of the Nature of Art

Alternative #1 **How do I refuel men's spirit and consciousness?** Alternative #2

- Produce inspiring works of art.
- Depict men becoming the best they can possibly be.
- Show the greatness possible to men.
- Celebrate the thrill of discovery.

- Produce boring naturalistic works of art.
- Depict men accepting whatever fate determines to be their lot in life.
- Show the smallness of men.
- Bemoan the mystery of the unknowable.





THE RULING VALUES

(1) REASON, (2) PURPOSE, (3) SELF-ESTEEM)

From Ayn Rand's
Philosophy of Objectivism

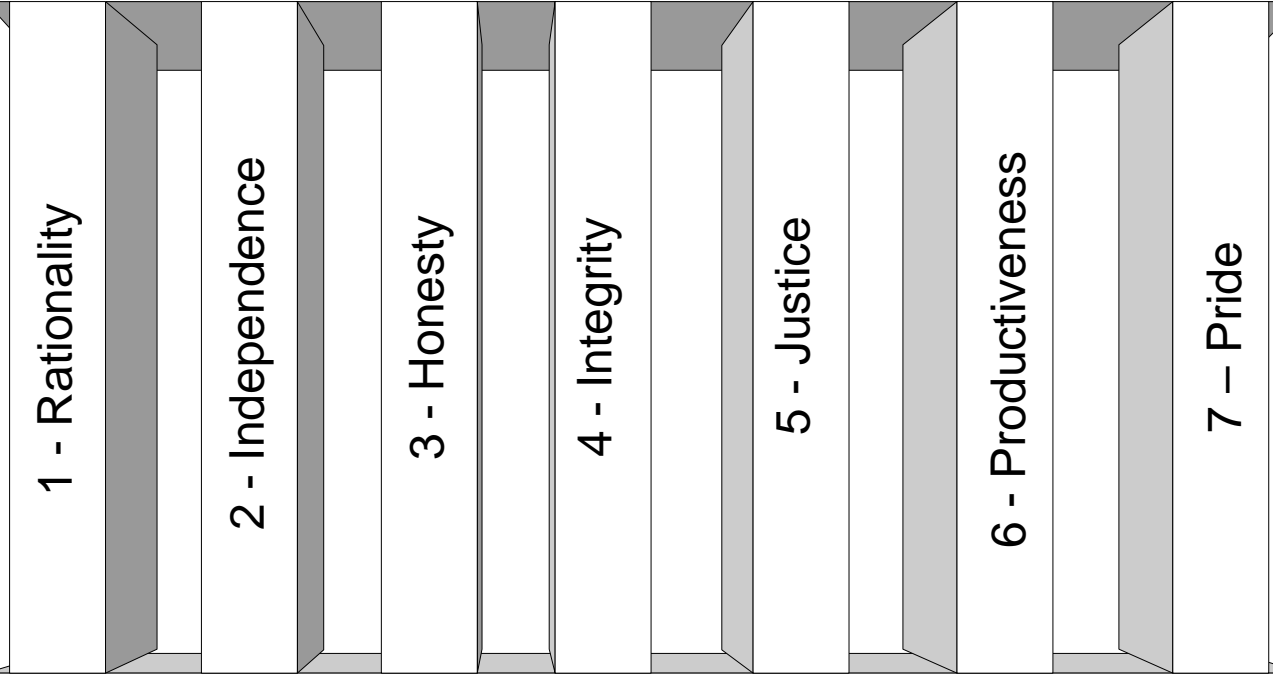


Diagram From Nathaniel Branden's
"Six Pillars of Self Esteem"

THE SEVEN OBJECTIVE VIRTUES

REQUIRED TO GAIN AND KEEP ONE'S VALUES

<p>1) Rationality: The primary virtue: the recognition of objective reality, commitment to its perception, and the acceptance of reason as a man's only judge of values and guide to knowledge and action.</p>	<p>5) Justice: The recognition of the fact that you cannot fake the character of men. A man of justice earns what he receives and neither gives nor takes the undeserved. He does not work except in exchange for something of value. He does not give his love, friendship, or esteem except in trade for the pleasure he receives from the virtues of individuals he respects. Love, friendship and esteem, as moral tributes, are caused and must be earned.</p>
<p>2) Independence: The acceptance of one's intellectual responsibility for one's own existence. It requires that a man form his own judgments and that he support himself by the work of his own mind.</p>	<p>6) Productiveness: The virtue of creating material values is the art of translating one's thoughts and goals into reality; a constant process of acquiring knowledge and shaping matter to fit one's purpose, of translating an idea into physical form.</p>
<p>3) Honesty: The selfish refusal to seek values by faking reality. It recognizes that the unreal can have no value. One should tell the truth that is relevant to his relationship to the person with whom he is dealing.</p>	<p>7) Pride: The recognition of the fact that you are your own highest value – that of any achievements open to you, the one that makes all others possible is the creation of your own character- that you are a being of self-made soul.</p>
<p>4) Integrity: The refusal to permit a breach between thought and action. It acknowledges the fact that man is an indivisible, integrated entity of mind and body.</p>	