

Essay Questions for Conversion

Now that you have completed your introductory study of Judaism, and are preparing for the formal conversion process, it might be helpful to reflect on what Judaism means to you. The questions below should help guide you in considering different aspects of how you think and feel about being Jewish. Please write an essay that addresses each of these issues. Take as much time and as many words as you feel you need to address these ideas in a thoughtful manner. At the top of the page, please be sure to indicate your name, address, home and business phone numbers and the Hebrew name you would like to choose. (If you have not selected a Hebrew name, and would like some help with that, please let me know and we can address that issue separately from the essay.)

1. Describe the process that led you to want to become Jewish.
2. Which Jewish values and beliefs do you find most appealing and persuasive?
3. How is Judaism more appropriate for you than your former religion or lifestyle? (Please discuss also your current understanding of who Jesus was if your former religion was a denomination of Christianity.)
4. Describe how your personal and home life has changed because of Jewish tradition and how it may yet change in the future.
5. Describe your sense of identification with the Jewish people in relation to Israel, world Jewry, the local Jewish community, and your synagogue.
6. Describe how you intend to fulfill the *mitzvah* of *tzedakah*.
7. What is your commitment to prayer and religious services?