

Topic Essay 1: The Meanings of Success

In life, there are usually two kinds of outcomes that may result from undertaking a given opportunity, success or failure. Describing failure is very simple; it refers to the insufficiency of completing an opportunity. Describing success, on the other hand, can be multifold.

In strict sense, success is basically the opposite of failure, where a person who experiences such is sufficient in completing their tasks or furthering their goals; in fact, the definition of success can run the gamut. Ultimately, the meaning of success varies between the individual. For me personally, I tend to define success within the realms of education, wealth, and relationships. The reason why I have these three in my definition is because I have been taught and influenced by people and situations in my life where being successful in them virtually entitles long-term happiness (with reduction in stress and increase of being content).

Over the many years of my growth, development and transition into a kid, teenager, and now adolescent, I've faced many life experiences that have shaped my attitudes toward the three key definitions of success in my book. Firstly, I've noted education; it goes without saying that "knowledge is power." Although a typically used cliché, my sentiment towards knowledge being equated as power is very strong. For one thing, I was constantly reminded while growing up that attending school was a necessity in life. Getting the proper education allows one to develop their scope of life's teachings and what skills are necessary to follow them right. However, there is one thing that education almost always guarantees, and that is work. Whether it is a diploma or a degree in any field of what education offers, achieving educational success allows for an

individual to grasp a career; a career that pays for living conditions and privileges not possible without.

Coming off the heels of how success in education guarantees a good money-paying career, I now can explain why being wealthy or financially well off is success in its own right. To me, nothing is more important than alleviating the fears of being in debt and financial struggle; everyone should be on the same page regarding this. It seems as though being financially stable leads for many to be content with their lifestyle. If this is true, then being wealthy automatically guarantees a worry-less lifestyle, greatly reducing stress from having to manage budgets and even work painstakingly to make ends meet. Given this scenario, wealth is certainly one of many successes that can lead to happiness; with that said however, happiness isn't always confined to just this. There are things that money can't buy and this is where having relationships matter for being successful in life. Whether maintaining strong bonds within an immediate or extended family or making and involving with friends or a girlfriend/boyfriend, the power of being social and being put at emotional ease by significant others is an important aspect of being successful.

Looking up to influences, there are many people who are successful in life because they have utilized one of the ideals that I've talked about previously. Regarding success from education, I look up to a married couple who founded the grade school I previously attended. Coming from a background in education, the couple formed one of the state's first charter schools and did so facing regional opposition. However, the efforts paid off as the school grew in stature and is now known for its strong and unique learning experiences. Ultimately due to this, the couple has achieved success in being recognized and admired to the point where their ideals

have helped spread the growth of the charter school in the state. Regarding success from work, I look up to Steve Jobs, who I admire for his entrepreneurship and visionary thinking—both of which came from modest curiosity at a young age and evolved into instruments of success from marketing and business. Lastly, regarding success from relationships, I look up to my dad whose numerous relationships with many people has undoubtedly helped him succeed in many aspects; for example, my dad's relationships with his clientele has garnered him tremendous business and even friends which the latter has greatly affected his reputation. In all, I look up to these people as it helps me take the necessary steps needed for life's success to be within my grasp.