

The Means to Succeed

By the dictionary, success is defined as:

Success (noun):

1. *The accomplishment of an aim or purpose.*
2. *The attainment of popularity or profit.*

However is it really that simple to become successful? Can anyone obtain a life in which they have succeeded? Is it possible to be successful and not make millions? What exactly does it mean to succeed? What does it take to become successful? It shouldn't be surprising when each person you ask these questions has a different answer than the person before. There are so many things that success can be and just as many things that it can't. Over the expansion of the entire population, it seems that the idea of achieving success has revolved around millionaires, Harvard graduates, "respectable," highly-ranked, professional figures, movie stars, etc... But what about any of the lower or middle class people out there, are they capable of being successful too? Pearson Education does a good job explaining that, "We all see success differently. Our aspirations are influenced by our upbringing, our environment, our image of ourselves, and the people we live and work alongside" (So What Does Success Look Like 1). Success is a vague concept, and definitions of it will vary from one person to another.

So how do I define success? Well, let's start with the basics: what kind of foundation does it take to become successful? It is simple; it takes a foundation that is secured by passion. Without passion, one has nothing to drive their desire to become successful. For most, the road to success is not an easy one to travel along—although not the case for

everyone. I believe high school student, Taneesha Barnes says it very well, that: “Success means overcoming many obstacles. It means reaching out for that desired goal and grasping it. Success is something that only you can achieve. It is something you have to do alone. It takes a strong and positive mind to succeed in life. Success is something that makes the world go around” (STUDENTS SPEAK OUT). It takes hard, overwhelming and stressful work in which passion within what it is that you are doing helps make you through the struggle while getting the most out of the experience.

Does net worth define how successful someone is? It can. However, how can you call a millionaire who hates their career and wishes they were doing something else successful? You can't. Success is not defined by how “well off” [financially] you are in the eyes of your peers or the general population. Your wealth is not what is going to define how successful you have been; success is much more personal than that. In Pearson Education's, “So What Does Success Look Like to You?” there is a list of 10 ways to define personal success, one of which is money. The author states that “Money—it is where most people start, but in reality, as long as you have enough money, more won't make you any happier” (4). Success is not materialistic; it is emotional. If you are not pursuing what it is that you are passionate about and love, you are not “well-off” [in a sense of general well being]. Even if what it is that you may be doing isn't horrible and miserable, it might as well be if it isn't everything you ever dreamed of. It is not possible to ever become successful if you are settling for all right or anything less than what it is that makes you happiest.

Success is accomplishing your vision of the “American Dream.” For me, a briefly summarized day in my “American Dream”—which I hope to attain within the next ten

years—looks a little something like this: I wake up, excited and ready for whatever the day has to offer me. I go to work with that “edge of the seat” feeling running through me in the best of ways because I have no idea what kind of life I am going to have to save. I come in contact with several serious trauma patients, all of whom are circling the drain, but my coworkers and I are able to do all that we can to save each life. It comes time to going back home and all I can think is “I have the greatest job ever, I wouldn’t want to be doing anything else in the world.” I believe most important key to my success will revolve around my career. However, succeeding in life means going home and being happy with what is waiting there for me as well. Jessinia Alfaro, another high school, states, “The measurement of success varies in every person because each person has a different goal. For one, success may be becoming the richest person in the world, but for someone else, it may be living comfortably with a loving family” (STUDENTS SPEAK OUT). For me to be successful, I will have accomplished my dream job, and any other goal I aim to have in my future; I will be happier than ever with what it is that I have chosen to make of my life.

To succeed, one doesn’t need to make millions, one doesn’t need to graduate from an Ivy League, and they don’t even need to have a job. I believe that to be successful one must accomplish a life revolved around the things they are passionate about, never settling for anything less than what one wants or deserves, and achieve their dreams. Someone who is either on the road to success, or is already successful will wake up 99 days out of 100 ready to tackle the day with a smile on their face while being thankful for the life they are living. They won’t wake up dreading going to work, or whatever it is that they are doing. Success may seem like a hard thing to achieve, but in reality all it takes is a person driven by passion

that works to accomplish their dreams. This person could very easily be myself, the person sitting across the cafeteria from me, or anyone else; it doesn't take an unbelievably special person to become successful.

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And remember, definition essays don't always have to be traditional (boring) essays.

[Here is a great example](#) of something different.

Dime

It was a cold Friday night in February, and we were playing against the Northern Freeze in the Ralph Engelstad Arena. The scoreboard clock read 9:21, still in the first half, and I had just received an outlet pass from Ozzy.

I slowly dribbled up the floor, analyzing the defense setting up in front of me. I notice that the Freeze are setting up in a 2-3 zone, and I call out, “41! Ozzy in the middle!”

We set up in a simple motion offense(,) and I swing the ball to Sam who was set up in the left slot. I then cut through the middle of the defense to the left corner and receive a pass from Sam. I spot Alex creeping towards the hoop from the left baseline with only one defender blocking my passing lane to him. I take one dribble towards the middle of the floor and stare down Hoffard, who is standing out on the right wing.

The defender near Alex takes a half step towards Hoffard, anticipating a skip pass. It’s all the room I need. I fling a no look pass into the recently vacated spot and right into Alex’s hands. Within a second the ball is off the glass and through the net.

“Ooo, droppin’ dimes!” I hear Nick chirp from the bench. I sprint back on defense and turn around just in time to give Alex a high five as he runs past me. But what did Nick mean when he said, “droppin’ dimes?”

According to Merriam-Webster dictionary, three definitions of the word dime are: “1. a coin of the United States worth one tenth of a dollar 2. a Canadian ten cent piece 3. a packet containing ten dollars worth of an illicit drug” (“dime” *Merriam-Webster*). The first two definitions both deal with currency in North America. So did Nick mean to tell me that I was dropping small coins? Obviously he didn’t. So that brings us to the third definition, illicit drugs.

Could Nick have been warning me that I dropped a small pack of weed on the court?

Considering that everyone who knows me at all knows that I would never have any drugs near me at any time, much less with me on the court, I'm pretty sure that he didn't mean that.

Another way to say it is "drop a dime" on someone. This phrase is commonly known as being a snitch. If you dropped a dime on someone, you turned them in for doing something wrong. It could be as severe as revealing to the cops that one of your friends is a murder, or as simple as a child tattling on a sibling for taking a cookie. Let's face it though, even if I had done something wrong (which we all know is preposterous), why would Nick be telling me in the middle of a game?

As any true baller would know, when Nick said that I was droppin' dimes, the term "dimes" could be replaced with the word assist. To get an assist, you need to make a pass that leads to a score for one of your teammates. If you substitute in the word assist, Nick says, "droppin' assists!" This makes sense because this is exactly what I did. I assisted Alex in scoring by passing him the ball in a position that made it easy for him to score.

So how did the term "dime" end up meaning assists in basketball? Did someone just randomly claim that assists should be called dimes one day when they were balling it up in their driveway? I doubt it. One possible explanation is that "the rich used to hand out dimes to help the poor in tough times" ("Why Are Assists in Basketball Called Dimes"). John Rockefeller, who made a fortune the oil industry, was known to assist the poor by standing on street corners and handing out dimes. I'm not sure exactly how this ended up correlating to basketball, but I don't think it would be too hard for it to end up translating into basketball slang.

Don't think that because you now know what droppin' dimes means that you are

automatically an expert on the subject. There are multiple variations of the phrase, and knowing when to use them is crucial. Whatever you do, remember never to shout out an ill advised, “Nice dime!” If it’s just a plain boring pass to someone who is wide open, it just isn’t worthy. Here are some different ways you can use the word dime, and when you should use them.

“Droppin’ delicious dimes!” is saved for occasions when someone is repeatedly tossing out some pretty sweet assists. Phil is one of the best at using this. He loves the Oklahoma City Thunder and always plays with them on the video game NBA 2k13. Whenever he is tearing it up with Russell Westbrook and Kevin Durant, he makes sure everyone knows it. Once they really start to get going, every time Phil threads the needle for bucket he smoothly proclaims, “Droppin’ delicious dimes!” Perfect execution of the phrase.

For a did-you-just-see-that assist, the best thing to say is, “He just dropped a shiny dime!” Don’t say this unless the pass is truly magnificent. For example, if someone looks a defender off, and then bounces a no look pass between his legs for an assist, it would be perfectly fine for you to yell it out. On the other hand, if someone simply throws a no look pass for an assist, it isn’t worthy of being called shiny.

The word dime can also be used quite effectively in trash talk before games. It doesn’t matter if it’s just 2k13 or a pickup games with some friends, you have to trash talk. Although I have never had the guts to chirp someone from another town in a legit high school game, I’m sure using the word dime here would work as well. Try saying something like, “I’m gonna drop dimes on you suckers!” to your opposition. Then make sure to high five your teammates and go over the top with laughter. If during the game you actually do start droppin’ dimes, make sure to let your friends on the other team know that you told them so.

Now you know the true definition of the word “dime.” If you ever watch a basketball game on television and hear one of the announcers exclaim, “He’s been droppin’ dimes all night,” you won’t be confused in the least. You will know that dime means assist, and with this knowledge, you will understand the entire realm of the word “dime.”

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“/ˈfam(ə)lē/ n. all the descendants of a common ancestor” (“Family”)

“I hate you!” echoed through our house nearly every night accompanied by the *thud* of someone’s foot slamming against each of the wooden steps. The funniest times included either the person racing up the stairs while trying to accomplish this masterful fury fest only to fall on their way up to their bedroom or when they reach their bedroom, slamming the door over and over again in hopes that opening and closing and opening and closing the door many times in a row would help drive their point home. It isn’t as if my family actually hated each other, but in a family the size of ours, when you have a point you feel needs to be driven home, a big voice was key.

The dynamic of families is so different ~~from one to the next~~. If you took a quick snapshot of my family in the past, the scene above would probably be unfolding. We always had one person that was out to upset someone else or had issues with rides being that we had one car for the kids to drive around and three drivers at the time. You can look at other families as see that they love sitting around together and playing board games or having group conversations. It isn’t like my family doesn’t enjoy this too, but the dynamic is just so different.

There are so many aspects besides the dynamic that go into the word “family.” As I think about mine, I can’t help but smile. I truly love everything that the word “family” encompasses for me.

Variety. From my grandparents all the way to my younger sister, every single person brings something enjoyable to the group. Many of my childhood memories include pranks pulled on anyone and everyone by my brothers. My sisters always had some words of advice. My parents always had clever sayings up their sleeves. “Straighten up and fly right” for when we

weren't doing what needed to be done or simply misbehaving. "I love you to the moon and back" for when they needed to emphasize the point. My grandparents always served as the wise owls and thorough observers. Even when one was wheelchair bound: "Hey kids! What are you doing up there?" This variety makes every gathering more enjoyable.

Love. As many times as "I hate you!" has been screamed down the stairs, everyone in my family loves each other. We get mad like everyone else does, and it may seem like it'll never get better, but it's never anything more than a superficial argument.

Everlasting. As much fun as my family has every day that we are together today, I look forward to all the days we will be able to do the same in the future. It frustrates me when I see people my age ruining the relationships they have with family members, often times being parents. I hope they realize that family will be there longer than any relationship you may holding with a higher importance before it's too late.

Adventurous. I can ~~truly~~ say that I remember every family vacation from age five and up. They always make for a funny story and better memories. On one vacation, my mother was sitting in the trunk with a newspaper covering her face yelling, "Randy! Randy! You are driving off the road!" on our way up to Pike's Peak. Ironically, my mother couldn't see out her window, much less the road. In her defense, the road was fairly unnerving taking into account the fact that one side was a complete drop off. On another vacation, in order to make for a perfect photo opportunity, we all bouldered (climbing up a large boulder) up to ledge for some and crevice for others all while the youngest at around eight years old fought for her own, making it to the ledge. Granted, since she was only eight, it wasn't as extreme as I make it sound, but either way, my family is always up for the adventure of trying something new.

Loyal. No matter how angry, happy, or indifferent we may be towards each other, we always have each other's backs. I experienced this first hand with one of my brothers at school defending one of the girls in the family. I remember him saying, "She's my sister. That's my job." As if what he did was nothing; rather, just part of the job. I am reminded of the loyalty that comes with being in a family every day since the Texas man returned home with Ebola. His family members weren't phased. In fact, with each interview, his family was there to support and defend him rather than scold him for infecting them. According to an article from NBC, "Duncan's family has accused Texas Health Presbyterian of failing to provide 'appropriate care.'" ("Ebola Victim Thomas Eric Duncan Sent Home From Hospital With 103 Fever"). This loyalty is often what my family is known by. I think I may take my family's loyalty for granted sometimes, but often times, it's what my family is known by.

In my life, "family" means much more than the six letter word when you read it on a paper. It stands for things all the way from the joy my mom finds in getting her hair brushed to how easy it is to win an argument with my oldest brother. It encompasses the joy I feel when we are all together and unity behind us all as a whole. The word "family" means more to me than words can describe.

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Throw Away Your Stereotypes and Listen

I have a paper due tomorrow, along with a test. Oh, I have work right after school too, and I have to text some teammates about Wednesday night bonding. I should email my teacher about the assignment due next week, and start sending out my college applications. I'm missing something . . . Oh yeah! I have to go cash my check at the bank during lunch, pick up my brother after work, talk to my boss about not working on Tuesdays, go to my internship, then finally I can go home and do some homework.

A day in the life of an average teenager trying to balance work, sports, school, family, and the future. Teenagers have more responsibilities than previous generations. We have a job to uphold, clubs to participate in for college, homework everyday, as well as college courses to take to make college more affordable. This is something that previous generations has not had to deal with before. Attention 'Greatest' Generation, Baby Boomers, and Generation Xers: You are not in the same world as you once were. Welcome to the world of the Millennial Generation. Sit back, kick your feet up, and try not to ridicule them too hard.

You may be wondering, "Millennials? What the heck is that?" Millennials, or Generation Y, are a group of people that are born approximately between 1980 and 2000. They are the generation that was born into a world of technology, and will be the first ones to not know a world without it. Millennials are a generation of dreamers that do not take 'no' as an answer, and always strive to be better. They are a work hard, play hard, kind of group that wants to love what they do, and live a happy life with meaning. This is completely different from the other generations, for they either dropped out of school to work in a factory or some hard labor job, or

got a degree and went into something that they did not even enjoy. Maybe this is the start of understanding why everyone has it out for the Millennials.

Now that you know who exactly the Millennials are, what is the first thing that comes to mind when you think of them? Technology? Pursuit of happiness? Maybe even rude, narcissistic, or a disgrace? Older generations will usually describe us as lazy, technology obsessed, spoiled brats. There is no real in between unless you are a Millennial yourself.

Over the years, generations have had one to two things that leave their stamp on the world. The ‘Greatest’ Generation gave us planes and WWII. The Baby Boomers gave us the Civil Rights Movement and the assassination of JFK. Generations X gave us women in the workforce along with love, sex, and rock n’ roll. Millennials are on the fast track to advanced technology and the rebirth of the 70s. There are positives and negatives to every generation, so why do their negatives drown out all of their positives?

Millennials have had an amazing opportunity to aid the world with their skills in technology. Since they have been around, advancements in medicine, cell phones, laptops, watches, stereos, glasses, robots, etc. have been made or improved. *Take that ya geezers.* Millennials are not as lazy as you all might think. I admit, there are a few celebrities and fads that take away from how incredible they really are. However, the phrase, “history repeats itself” is more than true in the present day. Things such as marijuana, get rich quick schemes, popularity, and even the fashion are coming back into the spotlight. People of the Generation X group should find that this sounds all too familiar.

After all of my efforts to defend this generation, as much as I hate to say it, Gen Y has a few issues. Some individuals are big headed, lazy, and unmotivated. Yes, this is a problem, but if

a child were to act out in public and be ‘naughty’, what would you say about them? I guarantee one of the first things you would say is, “his mother clearly did not teach him well enough manners.” Do you see where I am going with this? Their personalities and attitudes all derive from how they were raised. If they were raised being told that Hitler was a good man, that is what they would believe until they had some sort of rude awakening. It is the same outcome if you switch Hitler out for the phrase ‘you are special’.

Another annoying trait is cockiness, or narcissism. Now, where do you think this came from? Oh hey parents, so nice of you to join the conversation again. Thanks to the ones in charge of their lives from the time they were born to the time they move out, their attitudes are like this. Parents influence their every move. If you tell your kids that they are really good at something, just so you could spare their feelings, you are fueling this kind of behavior. Giving them false information or a prize for only participating is not going to benefit them, but make them worse. Michael Jordan most likely would not have been as great of a basketball player as he was if he was not cut from his high school team. Failure separates the dedicated and the lazy. By the parents taking that failure, embarrassment, and hurt away, all you have left is a bunch of kids who think they are better than they actually are. Which is where the narcissistic, or too confident personalities come in.

To switch gears a little bit, here is a history lesson for you guys. “Millennials, you are now the new target. You are entitled, and lazy, and just not fit to live right? Why does this keep happening? Why are you guys getting labeled the same way the Gen X did?” This is what Scott Hess, a VP of Tru that studies generation dynamics and teen to twenty somethings, had to say about the Millennials. Gen X. . . Does this sound familiar to you? I sure hope so because this is

the kind of ridicule that you guys suffered from in your teen to twenty somethings too. All that Millennials want to do is leave their legacy and live a fulfilling life. People focus their efforts on tearing us down rather than seeing the positives that can come from the Millennial generation. Mary Crane from CBSNEWS agrees by saying, "They have climbed Mount Everest. They've been down to Machu Picchu to help excavate it. But they've never punched a time clock. They have no idea what it's like to actually be in an office at nine o'clock, with people handing them work," (Crane, 2014). Instead of conforming mundane office work, Millennials are paving the way for something new. Something that they can stamp their name on and say, "We did that" just like the older generations did in the past.

Millennials stand for so much more than a generation. They stand for a new world, a new way of life, and something to be excited for. The old is fading and the new is coming, what are you going to do when the Millennials takeover?

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Vorfreude . . . What The Heck Does That Mean?

When Mr. Reynolds first told us that we had to write a four-page paper defining a single word, I had no idea where to even start. Honestly, there are roughly one million words in an English dictionary, and he expects me to define one in at least four pages? My immediate reaction was that he was crazy, but one night when I was searching through Pinterest I discovered some new terms. The one that stuck out to me comes from the German language. “Vorfreude” means anticipation, but as I found it on Pinterest, it describes it more specifically: the joyful, intense anticipation that comes from imagining future pleasures. The interesting thing about this word is that even though not everyone will go through the same imaginations involved, the word will still carry anticipation that derives from future pleasures.

Have you ever caught yourself in a complete daze, putting current things aside and just imagining your future? Of course you probably have, I mean, who hasn’t? Lets think about when we were in our prime years of being a child on Christmas Eve night just thinking about Santa coming the next morning. Now that is an example of “vorfreude.” I would anxiously write Santa a letter telling him exactly what I wanted, but of course the anticipation of actually discovering what he got you was an entirely different story. Besides opening presents, I didn’t really focus on much other than the fact that Santa would be coming that night. Eventually, my parents would send me to bed, and as I tried falling asleep, I couldn’t wait until the next morning when Santa’s presents would be in our stockings above our brick fireplace. I knew he wouldn’t get me all that I had wished for, so I hoped that he would have at least gotten some of the things that I wanted the most. Yes, I was only imagining the next morning, but boy was it sure a pleasure to imagine getting everything that I had asked for! The “vorfreude” I experienced from

Santa truly was a pure example in the anticipation I would get when thinking about the future pleasures.

Now let's go onto a different aspect of the word "vorfreude" and an excellent model comes from my principal at Lincoln, Mr. Zutz. One of his tweets before school started was exactly this, "Sitting reflecting on my thoughts for staff tomorrow. I gave myself goosebumps thinking about this school, students, and staff. #loveLHS." His "vorfreude" was the excitement for school to get started up, and to begin working with students and staff once again. It was evident that this was an example because his imagination of school beginning, a pleasure for him, gave him goose bumps. Although this may seem a bit irrelevant, it just shows the different aspects of "vorfreude" people can experience in their life. Not everyone will get the same joy from imagining their future, but they all should have some type of experience that they anticipate!

Recently, for me, Pinterest has been one of my greatest weaknesses. If I could, I would sit on there all day long, just imagining all sorts of different things that I will sooner or later be faced with in my future. Although the events aren't necessarily imminent within the next five years of my life, finding pins about weddings, children, and a future home can really make me excited. This is one of my "vorfreude's." The anticipation I get from the idea of marrying someone that I can love everyday for the rest of my life is something that I literally am beyond anticipating. Or since I am now past the age where it would be socially acceptable to act like a four year old again, I'm anxious to have children that will be able to experience that opportunity just as I did. And finally, owning a home and decorating it just as I please is something I imagine being awesome in my life. These ideas are all a part of my future imaginations, but without them

I am really not sure where I would find most of my joy and anticipation. Without anything to look forward too, how can you make it through the day if you're only focused on the past?

“Vorfreude” is of course a German word, but it describes a couple different English words within itself. The imagination process itself is a wonderful thing, but when you're imagining a future pleasure, it is so simple to lose yourself in deep thoughts. As *School Dictionary 2* describes the word, “the power or process of forming images in the mind of things that are not actually present” (480). So compare the word imagination to the German word “vorfreude,” and basically if you are imagining something from the future that you believe is a pleasure, then the word imagine can transform into “vorfreude.” One of the greatest things that I have discovered that has given me “vorfreude” would be imagining myself living through my passion. This happens more often than not, and thankfully I have great role models to look up to when it comes to this. Some of those role models that have impacted me the most are teachers here in District 564, they truly engage in their passions daily, but they make money doing so. When I “vorfreude,” I can only dream that someday I will be in the same position that they are experiencing as I will be living through my passion.

Next time you catch yourself daydreaming and anticipating that imagination, just think of the word “vorfreude.” It is such an interesting word specifically because of the fact that it describes more than one English word, which makes it much simpler to explain your feelings in a single word!

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