

Mini-Study: Success

Starter 2.25: How is success generally defined in your family? In your education? Your society? How do you define it personally? Is your definition in conflict with how you were socialized?

Make a copy of this document and share with me when you finish.

Listen to this episode of Ted Radio Hour on ["Success"](#)

- As you listen to each, write down a line that stands out to you as significant (either you strongly disagree with it or strongly agree with it) from both speakers
- After listening: Summarize both speakers' main ideas and discuss to what extent could either speakers' definitions of success positively affect your own life. What did you find relevant from these talks?

For your reference- brief summaries of main points of each podcast:

- **Tony Robbins** - don't let your story define you, follow your passion as drive is the key to success
- **Angela Duckworth**- grit is the key to success, growth mindset helps one have grit
- **Ron Gutman**- Smiling makes one appear more successful and there is a correlation between one's smile and one's success in life
- **Mike Rowe**- Don't follow your passion if it makes you unhappy; ideal is to blend what makes you happy with what makes money; people with dirty jobs are perhaps the most successful
- **Alain de Bottom**- **(We listened to this one together)** Our current definition of successful sets people up as winners or losers so we should redefine success in a way that is kinder and more compassionate. You can't be successful in all realms of our lives. You have to make a choice between being successful in work or life. We must make a choice as to in which realm of our life we want to be successful. It is a personal choice-- must decide for yourself. There shouldn't be a one-size fits all definition of success.

Read Tennessee Williams, "[The Catastrophe of Success](#)"

1. What does Williams seem to conclude about success and the quest for happiness and meaning?
2. Choose a quote from the text and react to it.

JOURNAL 2.25: Write about your personal definition of success!

Explain how these additional texts influenced or made you think differently about how you define success. What role does the drive for "success" play in your life's quest for meaning? How is this related to the question of the human quest for happiness and meaning?

If you had to distill your own definition of success into a "question- title" for this podcast series (like [these examples](#)) what would it be? **WHY? Explain your title.**