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**Success**

To my sister, who is on the verge of applying to graduate school.

You have worked hard to get to the point where you are today. It has not been easy for you either. Applying to Occupational Therapy school let alone any graduate school, I imagine, could be nerve racking and stressful. Your definition will differ from my definition in ways but may also be the same in certain areas. Success to you right now, I could imagine, would be getting into grad school and beginning your career as an Occupational Therapist. You’re probably anxious and become overwhelmed whenever you think about it. But, remember one thing you can do anything you set your mind to and you can be successful at anything, as long as you set goals and work hard to achieve them. By the end of this paper I hope you see my view of success and, in a way, become motivated to be and continue to be successful in your life.

Success is ultimately diverse but is achieved by setting goals and accomplishing them in life by taking initiative, hard work, determination and dedication. Success is simply not about obtaining wealth or a high social status. Success is developed from failure, which teaches us what not to do the next time around in order to be successful.

Success is diverse. What I mean by this is that there are so many different types of success and so many different perspectives from so many different people. The idea of success to a doctor differs from success to a lawyer which differs from the idea of success to a CEO on Wall Street which differs from success to a college student and so on. Yet the basic structure of setting goals, hard work, determination, and dedication remains. This is why success is so important and a key concept in life.

Doctors are leaders in society and in a way are symbols of success. Doctors have set many goals and have achieved them through hard work, dedication, determination and by taking initiative. Each individual doctor has sets goals, such as becoming a doctor to saving and changing people’s lives. Doctors are committed to their rigorous studies, which gives them the knowledge to be successful at what they do. Being a doctor is not easy and requires a tremendous amount of work. Success to a doctor would be providing care for a person and being able to have effectively touched that person’s live.

Lawyers are respectable figures of success, as well. The time and dedication it takes to become a lawyer is remarkable. The obligation as with doctors to their studies shows their willingness to be successful. Lawyers too, have set goals in life and worked towards those goals. Lawyers have a continuous goal of winning court cases and if they continue to win then that accomplishes their goals and is success.

Without success the CEO’s of Wall Street would crumble. Being successful in the business world can be time consuming and requires a solid effort. In an industry that can make you or break you, you have to dedicate yourself to your company and to achievement. An example of success for a CEO on Wall Street would be generating the most revenue he or she could possibly obtain. Having a thriving company is the ultimate success to any business owner. The successful owners of these fortune-five hundred companies did not start at the top of the ladder. They had to climb the ladder in order to get to the top, which as with all success requires hard work and commitment and taking the initiative to get started.

College students strive for academic achievement. Success to a college student would be to simply pass their classes or test or to simply make it through the school day. For many students, success in general, would be being successful; getting their degree and obtaining a steady job with excellent job security and pay.

Taking initiative, hard work, determination and dedication are what it takes to be able to reach your goals and to attain success. Whatever you do in life there is always a goal involved even if you do not realize it. You must first set goals and then you must work on that goal. Tony Robbins, a prominent success coach once stated, “Setting goals is the first step in turning the invisible into the visible-the foundation for all success in Life” (Robbins 274). Robbins’s point is that setting goals is vital. I agree, with this because setting goals is the backbone or structure of success. Success is centered on goals whether it be a goal to creating a workout plan to get in shape or a goal to relaxing and taking time off. Whether you achieve that goal is up to you. If you achieve your goal you have taken the initiative, worked hard, and were dedicated and determined. You must realize though that achieving goals is easier said than done. According to Tony Robbins, “Success comes from taking the initiative and following up... persisting... eloquently expressing the depth of your love. What simple action could you take today to produce a new momentum toward success in your life?” (Robbins 23). Robbins argues you must take initiative in order to be successful. I completely agree that initiative must be taken. Without it you cannot progress any further and thus your success is halted. If you make initiative, hard work, determination, and dedication part of your life you will be successful.

Everybody wants to be successful in life. For me my whole life is based on success. It begins with being a successful student to getting accepted into Medical School and achieving my ultimate goal of becoming a doctor. Just looking at that it does not look so hard, but in reality it is. I face the same challenge as you sister, as well as so many others. In reality, this will take enormous hard work and dedication. In my one major goal of becoming a doctor there are numerous smaller goals. Goals such as volunteering for community service, preparation for the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT), and obtaining a solid grade point average and completing all prerequisites prior to medical school. These goals, sister, are in ways similar to your ultimate goal of becoming an Occupational Therapist. You have to set smaller goals to achieve your ultimate goal, as well. Thus, you have to achieve quality grades, take part in community service, and meet all the requirements in order to be considered for the Occupational Therapy program.

Success and failure go hand in hand. As the prominent American writer and lecturer Dale Carnegie puts it, “Develop success from failures. Discouragement and failure are two of the surest stepping stones to success“(Getmotivation.com). Carnegie is saying you develop success from failure. I agree with this argument of developing success from failure. If you do not succeed at first then you learn from your failures and then become successful. Another example is a quote by Anthony J. D'Angelo, “In order to succeed you must fail, so that you know what not to do the next time” (The Formula for Success). Again, D’Angelo as with Carnegie argues success is made from failure. D’Angelo argues you must fail in order to succeed. I agree completely with this excerpt because by failing you learn why you failed and attain the knowledge of how to be successful in the future.

There are numerous failures to success stories and inspirational stories about success. One example, In *Gifted Hands: the Ben Carson Story*, Dr. Ben Carson shares his struggle of becoming director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions. In the book he describes his key to success using an acrostic answer; Think Big which stands for Talent, Time, Hope, Honesty, Insight, Nice, Knowledge, Books, in depth learning, and God. Dr. Carson breaks down these letters and explains them in depth. “If you can remember these things, if u can learn to THINK BIG, nothing on earth will keep you from being successful in whatever you choose to do” (Carson 219). Basically, Dr. Carson is saying this was his key to success; the method he used. I agree with Dr. Carson that this method would work but I see success more as working hard to achieve a set goal. Doctor Carson continues on to say “If we choose to see the obstacles as hurdles, we can leap over them. Successful people don’t have fewer problems. They have determined nothing will stop them from going forward” (Carson 224). Carson argues problems in life should be viewed as hurdles which can be beaten by leaping over them, and that successful people will not let anything stop them. This is a powerful quote in which it touches on a crucial part of being successful; dedication.

In addition to Dr. Ben Carson, there are various stories of celebrities who have achieved success from failure. For instance take Michael Jordan, one of the greatest names to basketball. Jordan was cut from his high school varsity basketball team and was told he wasn’t good enough. He set a goal to prove himself and worked hard to make the varsity basketball team the next year. Jordan practiced everyday to become better and achieve his goal. From then on the rest was history leading up to his college career and his professional career in the NBA. In addition to Jordan, rapper Eminem came from nothing to becoming one of the best rappers today. Eminem had nothing in life as he was raised in poverty in Warren, Michigan. Eminem is not successful because he is famous and rich now but because he had a goal, a goal of becoming a rapper and making it in life. Eminem became dedicated and worked hard toward his goal and eventually found success. Notice in these examples that these people are successful because of a set goal and by achieving it, not necessarily successful because of becoming rich and famous.

Society depicts success as having fame and fortune. These two things seem to be the only things that matter in society but the truth is that money and fame is not everything in life. If you do by chance happen to be rich and famous success is more about having fame and fortune. It is about what accomplishments you achieve such as winning Oscars, Video Music Awards, selling records, charity and giving back to the community. With these accomplishments comes goals and hard work to attain success. I ultimately see wealth and success as being the products of success in different situations.

Wealth is not equivalent to success. Wealth is defined as “a great quantity or store of money, valuable possessions, property, or other riches” (Dictionary.com). Common synonyms are prosperity, possessions, capital, and fortune. Although sometimes success is defined as obtaining wealth or fame I do not see it as this. I see wealth as an accomplishment in life but it is truly not success. There is only one exception. If you have a goal to be rich and famous then that is the only time I see money and fame as being success because it was your goal and you worked hard to achieve it. With wealth sometimes your loved ones are lost, you do not have true friends, and you feel alone. This is not what success is. Where is the happiness? As the saying goes “money isn’t everything” holds true.

Moreover, fame is not success. With fame you have to be willing to make sacrifices in your life. Yes, you may have worked hard to become famous but in the end, if fame has a negative effect then that is not success. And if you are not happy then that is not success. Fame isn’t as it seems. Many celebrities often resort to drug abuse to cope with the suffering as a result from the lime light. This is not true success.

To conclude, I hope this paper has showed you the ultimate diversity of success. Doctors, Lawyers, business men, and students are figures that represent the opposing views and perspectives of success. Success can be financial, personal, professional or academic and can be anything from saving a life, to helping others, to passing a test, to cooking without burning down the house; anything. As stated, success has a backbone of setting goals and learning from your failures. Success, in a way is like a formula. As Thomas J. Watson once said; "Would you like me to give you a formula for success? It's quite simple, really. Double your rate of failure. You are thinking of failure as the enemy of success. But it isn't at all. You can be discouraged by failure or you can learn from it, so go ahead and make mistakes. Make all you can. Because remember that’s where you will find success."

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