

Laws of Life Essay

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Essay Title: Perseverance: The only universal quality of success

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It was a dark, miserable, dreary night on New Year's Eve. I laid on my bed pondering. I looked over at my clock and saw that it was 10:53 PM. "*How have I managed to waste another year of my life. What am I doing wrong? What are successful people doing to become successful?*" I thought to myself.

I picked up my phone and looked up "famous success stories." Stories of failure were all that I saw. After clicking around I found the one thing that was the common thread with all tales of success. The successful people were the ones with the most difficulties and hardships but they persevered and pushed through all of the seemingly insurmountable obstacles.

That day I realized that I was plagued by doubt and the possibility of failure. After having this revelation, I started to see how failure was the necessary prerequisite for all successful people.

Steve Jobs was fired from the company that he began. He persevered which eventually led him back to becoming CEO of Apple a few years later. Bill Gates dropped out of Harvard to pursue a business called Traf-O-Data which eventually failed. This never stopped him and he created Microsoft and became the world's youngest self-made billionaire. Life is like sailing at sea. One must first pass through the treacherous and perilous rapids before reaching the beach-side oasis.

One statement that encapsulates the idea of perseverance is a quote by Thomas A. Edison, "Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time." This quote resonates with me because all humans have the urge to give up at one point or another and the difference between success and failure lies in fighting that urge and persevering. It is easy to run away in the face of difficulty but one must keep pushing forward regardless of any obstacles that may be in the way.

The path to success is like climbing a mountain. Countless obstacles and hardships are faced and the easiest thing to do is walk back down to the ground where it is comfortable and easy. One must push through and reach the top.

One story that truly inspires me on a personal level is one of my dad's experiences. We immigrated from Bulgaria to the U.S. and none of us knew a word of English when we came. My dad knew that in order to fully integrate into American society we would all need to know the language including him. He then signed up for English classes at a local community college. Without any way of communication or friends to help him, my

dad somehow got to class and started learning the basics of the English language. There were a plethora of challenges and difficulties in the way but he persevered and obtained a proficient understanding of the language. It was from him that I learned that perseverance was the key to success.