

## Lessons of Failure Assignment—Sept. 18/19, 2018

### Quickwrite

Your assignment is to write about a time you failed at something, overcame a challenge, or didn't have things go the way you had planned, but you learned an important lesson from the experience. Describe your experience and the lesson you learned.

### Lessons of Failure Paper

In the last article we read, about admitting failures, the author relates an experience of a student who failed pre-calculus, decided to retake the class, and got a B+. The student says he is now taking calculus, and even though he doesn't love it, he is glad he is pushing through these challenges. He says he learned the following lessons from this experience:

- I learned to let go of shame.
- I realized that I can't let a grade define my success.

The author of the article, who evaluates college admissions applications, says, "We get the most excited when we read an application that seems real. It's so rare to hear stories of defeat and triumph that when we do, we cheer. . . . The ability to bounce back is a fundamental life skill students have to learn on their own. The lessons of failure can't be taught in a classroom; they are experienced and reflected upon" ("Want to Get Into College? Learn to Fail" by Angel B. Perez, 2012).

This assignment will require some reflection. Write as if your story is part of a college application that you will be submitting to this author; however, you shouldn't mention the application in your paper. Your paper should . . .

- Center around ONE experience.
- Be about a lesson learned.
- Maintain a positive tone.
- Emphasize the triumph, not just the defeat.
- Demonstrate your ability to overcome a challenge.

This will probably be about one typed page, single-spaced. Type your name and class period in the upper left-hand corner. Type a centered title. Indent each paragraph. Leave only one space between paragraphs, not two. Use standard font type and size, as well as standard margins. Name your file "Lessons of Failure" and SHARE your document with me before you begin writing.