

What is the Meaning of Success To Me?

NAME _____

The word *success* can mean different things to different people. Bob thinks *success* is helping others by developing medicines for curing diseases. Elizabeth thinks that getting good grades in school is how she measures *success*. Sarah's idea of *success* is being a star athlete. Becoming a teacher is how Danny defines success. *Success* can be all of these and more. What is your own definition of *success*?

Ralph Waldo Emerson, a famed poet and writer, defined success this way: *"To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children...to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others; to leave the world a little better; whether by a healthy child or a garden patch...to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is success."*

Why is it important to think about and define success for yourself?

Because you can then understand the value and need to set goals for yourself to achieve success. The dictionary's definition of success is: "a favorable or desired outcome of something attempted." Is there something that you want bad enough to set a goal and then put forth effort to reach that goal? To be a success?

Success for you begins by making decisions about what you want and what is important to you. These decisions then become your goals. Goals can be big or small. Goals can be about school, home, relationships, sports, or your future career. All goals have two qualities: **desire** and **action**. You really have to want to achieve a goal (desire) and then you need to work towards achieving your goals by doing specific things to make that goal a reality (action).

In your personal journal, once you have a goal, write it down, and make an action plan to make it happen.