Develop a meaningful definition of success

Success in life comes from one thing: deciding exactly what you want to accomplish and then deliberately choosing to invest the minutes and hours of your life doing only those things that move you in the direction of your goals.

It’s simple. It’s the truth. And the moment you fully accept it, your life and the lives of those you love will never again be the same. Success however you choose to define it is absolutely predictable.

Get Clear on Success

Specifically, what does it mean to you? If you don’t have a clear picture of success, how can you honestly pursue it or expect to achieve it?

The most successful people in the world are those who have taken the time to figure out exactly who they want to become and what they want to achieve, and then invest the hours of their days in activities consistent with these ideals.

The unsuccessful are those who have no real direction in life. They tend to “go with the flow,” or drift in whichever direction the wind happens to be blowing. Their lives are controlled by circumstances and overflowing with excuses.

Get over wanting things to be fair. A level playing field is a silly and unproductive fantasy as far as peak performance is concerned.

It will never happen, nor it should. You can focus on reaching your goals or on the obstacles that stand in your way. Your choice will lead to accomplishment and progress or frustration and alienation.
The truth is that life, if viewed as a card game, deals good hands, bad hands and average hands. And whichever hand you receive, you must play!
You can win with any hand and you can lose with any hand. It’s totally up to you and how you play the game!
Success is for you and for anyone willing to take the initiative and pay the price.

**Sow, Then Reap**

Success is a planned outcome, not an accident. Success and failure are both absolutely predictable because they follow the natural and immutable Law of Sowing and Reaping.
Simply stated, if you want to reap more rewards, you must sow more service, contribution, and value.
Success in life is not based on need but on seed. So you’ve got to become good at either planting in the springtime or begging in the fall.
The Bible says, “Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.”
There are no exceptions to the law of causality. It is impartial and impersonal and it comes to us in a particular order—Sow then Reap.
This God given natural law was old when the pyramids were new. Like gravity, it works twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week everywhere in the world, regardless of whether anyone has ever told you about it.
It is impossible to harvest something that has not been sown. Success is the effect generated by right thinking and right actions. Success, and failure for that matter, are not accidents, but consequences. *If you want to know what you sowed in the past, look around you and see what you’re reaping today.*
The mark of a fully mature, mentally healthy individual is the acceptance of complete responsibility for one’s life. When you accept total responsibility, you recognize that you are the cause of all your choices, decisions, and actions. When you are anchored in the reality of responsibility, you are far more likely to act in ways that will not later become causes of regret, frustration, or embarrassment.

**Everything counts**

Everything you do or fail to do counts. Every action has a consequence even it isn’t immediate. At this moment you are becoming more like the person you want to become or you are not! There is no neutrality. What you do Friday counts, just as what you do Sunday morning or Thursday afternoon counts. An extraordinary life is simply the accumulation of thousands of efforts, often unseen by others, that lead to the accomplishment of worthwhile goals.

**You are rich with choice.**

And your choices reveal who you really are. More that any other single factor you are where you are today because of the choices you have made. You have made choices about what to learn and what not to learn. You have made choices about who to spend your time with and who not to spend your time with. You have made choices to believe some things and not to believe others. You have made choices to persevere and decisions to give up. You have made decisions on whether or not you will drink, smoke, or use drugs. You have made decisions on what you will eat or not eat.
You have decided either to write down exciting goals for you life or just to wing it. You have made a decision to get wide or to become a manager. You have made a decision to build a big base shop or to become like everyone else. You have made a decision to give into fear and decisions to press on in the face of fear. You have made decisions to be the best and decisions to act like all the rest. Consider for a moment all of the decisions you have made in just the last three years. These choices are made daily, hourly, and minute to minute. Imagine having made a different choice in some key area. How might your life be different today?

“My father taught me that the only helping hand you’re ever going to be able to rely on is at the end of your sleeve.”
J. C. Watts

What’s Your Excuse?

Ask yourself this question “What is my excuse?” What does this question mean to you? Does it remind you of excuses you have told others, excuses you’ve heard or excuses you have told yourself? While we are making excuses others are making progress. Excuses should be laughed at and not dignified as they often are today. Excuses and responsibility cannot coexist. If you have one, you cannot have the other. Each time you make an excuse you reinforce your propensity to make even more excuses in the future, and excuse making becomes a habit.
Whenever you act irresponsibly and feel the need to make excuses, your brain goes into overdrive, attempting to rationalize your lack of results. There appears to be a variety of rational lies for almost every occasion. Unless you make a commitment to the choice of excuse free living, you will always be able to find excuses. Commit to making your homes and offices excuse free zones.

If a situation arises that previously called for an excuse, substitute the words, “I am responsible,” where the excuse used to go. Excuses are contagious, self-defeating bad habits. Where you find one person making an excuse, you’ll find others infected with excuses as well. You don’t like to hear excuses from other people and they don’t like to hear yours either! Stop excuses before they start by creating an environment conducive to success. Make it easy for yourself and others you depend on to succeed by anticipating and eliminating all excuses in advance. This is the true measure of how intensely you desire your goal.

The only thing more damaging to your success than making an excuse is making the same one twice. Remember; there is never enough room for buts and brilliance.

You must make the choice. Do I want my Big But or do I want my goal?

High achievers are motivated by pleasurable outcomes. Underachievers are motivated by pleasurable methods.
Feelers and Doers

The world can be divided into feelers and doers. Feelers take action and initiative only when they feel like doing so. In other words, they feel their way into acting.
If they don’t feel like doing something that will advance their goals, they won’t do it.
If a feeler feels like exercising, he will.
If he doesn’t feel like exercising he won’t.
A feeler’s decision making ability is wired to his short-term emotional appetite.
He is a prisoner of the desire for instant gratification, and naturally will suffer long-term consequences of this short-term perspective.
Feeling driven thinking is shallow driven thinking.
It lacks character, conviction, and maturity.
Feeling-driven thinking is also a habit.
Doers on the other hand, act their way into feeling.
After determining what needs to be done, doers take action.
They just do it.
If they don’t feel like taking action, they consider that emotion to be a distraction and take action in spite of it.
They refuse to let their desire for short term comfort divert them from their long term goal.
You become a doer by making a definite and deliberate decision to do so.
You become a feeler by default, by neglecting to consider this aspect of your character at all.
In absence of a definite decision to do otherwise, we are all prone to giving in to the worst side of human nature.
We are all very likely to engage in actions that only produce immediate payback.
The alternative to a life restricted by feelings is a life unlimited by action.
The antidote to a life of comfort and mediocrity is a life of character and courage. You can live a life of action and character by shifting your thinking from short term to long term. This means you must consider the long-term ramifications of every action you take or don’t take. Ask, “If this action were to turn into a habit for me, would that be in my best long term interest?” If the answer is “no” don’t do it!!!! If the answer is “yes” then DO it NOW!!!!