

JC Learning Lab
Sample Essay
Example

Learning the Hard Way

There is a common misconception that failure is a bad thing. Many people who fail at something are often called losers, but if those people learn from their losses, they are actually winners. Failure teaches people that they are just like everybody else, and that success is gained from hard work and determination. When people fail at something important in their lives and decide to try again, they tend to regain their confidence and persist with great resilience. Many of the best lessons people learn in life come from the mistakes they have made and the knowledge they gained from their mistakes.

A good example of failure being the best teacher is in business matters. People with excess money often invest in businesses they know little or nothing about. They put their trust into what they have been told because that is easier than setting up the business on their own. Other people often manage the business, and the only knowledge the investors have is from what they have been told and what they see accounted for in books and records. When their business fails, they rarely know the reasons why. They realize that they may have succeeded had they researched and planned more efficiently. Most of them learn from such mistakes and go back into the business market with knowledge of what it takes to succeed.

Another good example of learning more from failure than success is found in sports. When people first begin playing a sport, they may not play very well. However, they learn and improve through experience. Very few athletes win all of their competitions, so there are failures in sports. When frequent winners lose, they may act childish and prove that they have learned nothing from their success. Striving athletes often realize too late that they could have succeeded had they practiced more and worked together.

A final example of failure being a better teacher than success lies within personal relationships. People often go into relationships knowing very little about one another. This sometimes leads to

disappointment when their relationship progresses and their true traits surface. One person may make a comment about a subject and unintentionally hurt the other's feelings. This situation could have been avoided had they taken more time to get to know each other. Many people spend a lot of time in relationships that do not lead anywhere because they neglect the things that matter in making a relationship significant. When the relationship ends, the people involved are often bitter and feel that they have wasted their time, but they have actually learned one of life's greatest lessons.

Failure has evolved as a way for people to learn from their mistakes. In fact, failure is a mechanism created to force people into figuring out where they went wrong and then striving to succeed the next time they are faced with such a dilemma. No one can win every time, and if people can learn to accept their mistakes and move on, they will also realize how strong they truly are. When success is reached through suffering, the resulting honor is far greater than that of just being handed an award. Learning the hard way is probably the best way to learn in any situation.