

My Personal Success

Malcom Forbes, a very successful business man once said “Success follows doing what you want to do. There is no other way to be successful.” Following Forbes' advice I looked within myself to discover what it is that I want to do with my life. I found that what I desire most is to travel the world, make a difference, and be happy with who I am until I die - this is my definition of personal success. In order to achieve this I have come up with a series of personal goals. These goals include going to college, joining the peace corps, traveling the world, having a job, and keeping healthy relationships.

For many people achieving success starts with college and I feel the same. I plan on researching a few different colleges, but I pretty much have my heart set on the University of Michigan. Michigan is a competitive school so in order to get in I must make sure I have the best grades, advanced classes, several extra curricular activities, community service, and a high ACT score. Another big issue of college is paying for it all. I plan on signing up for scholarships, requesting financial aid, and working on campus. Oddly enough another of my goals was first announced on the steps of the University of Michigan.

On October 14th 1960 the soon to be President Kennedy challenged students from Michigan to make a difference in the world. This challenge would turn into the Peace Corps, who I plan on joining after I graduate from college. I have always had a desire to see cultures different than my own and to serve others. I have been blessed to live such a privileged life where I eat on a regular basis and I can go to school for free. I cannot help but feel that the reason I am so lucky is because I am meant to help better the lives of others. Serving my county and the world through the peace core is one of my greatest aspirations. Signing up for the peace corps helps me to reach my other goal of travel.

Ever since I was a child I loved going on family vacations and I still have this desire to travel everywhere and do everything. If I ever found a magic lamp the first wish I would ask of the genie

would be for a personal jet that could take me anywhere in the world. Consequently I hope to go into a career that allows me to travel so easily.

Finding a career that I love is much more important to me than having one that makes a lot of money or has good benefits. I have learned from my father's example that enjoying what you do is much more important than money. At this point in my life I'm not positive of what job I want. I have thought about being an international journalist or writing articles for National Geographic. I've also considered being a wildlife biologist. Recently I've begun to think about working for a non-profit organization or starting up my own. However getting a job is not the only thing in life, creating and keeping strong relationships also leads to the road of happiness.

Just like any other child raised on Disney movies, I too look forward to the day when my prince will come. When I am older I hope to fall in love, get married, and have children. When this all will fit into my plan is still being determined, until then I rely on the strength of my family and friend relationships to get me through each day. I imagine that these will become even more important in the future especially if I travel like I want to. Thank goodness for facebook and other media sources that can keep us connected over great distances.

If the dictionary's definition of success is “the accomplishment of an aim or purpose.” Then my purpose is to live my life, as Forbes suggests, doing what I want. For me this means having an education, a job, a family, and making a difference. One of my favorite quotes is by E.B. White, he said “I arise in the morning torn between a desire to improve the world and a desire to enjoy the world. This makes it hard to plan the day.” I would truly be a success, at least in my own eyes, if I could achieve both of these desires.