Essay 1: The Idea Of Failure Leading To Success

What is a success without failure? Most individuals would categorize success as achieving one’s planned goal or dream. These driven people see themselves achieving their dreams and planned goals in the shortest time possible, without facing any troubles or heartaches. In reality, when we fail to meet our goals and aspirations, others view this failure as a horrible catastrophe--which then results in people giving up. Individuals tend to rationalize by making excuses about failure, instead of persevering through the obstacle. Furthermore, failure is often our GPS to success. Although people view success as all fun and games, we have to remember that it also comes with hardships and failure. One way of understanding success is that sometimes we fail before we succeed, viewing failure from a positive lens allows us to preserve and overcome our situations to become better people.

A specific example of failing which led to success is explained in Allison Linn’s article “What Steve Jobs Taught Us About Failure” (2011). The author goes into detail about how the failures of Steve Jobs lead him to be one of the greatest and most successful innovators of our time. In order to fully explain the failures of Steve Jobs, the article is broken down into paragraphs titled by the mistakes he has made in which Linn highlights then explain how they would lead him to new frontiers in the world of technology. In a Stanford Commencement speech, Jobs talks about being ousted from the company that he created by saying, "I didn’t see it then, but it turned out that getting fired from Apple was the best thing that could have ever happened to me. The heaviness of being successful was replaced by the lightness of being a
beginner again, less sure about everything. It freed me to enter one of the most creative periods of my life” (Linn 2). By analyzing what had happened to him, he was able to overcome adversity, come up with new ideas, and start from scratch all over again. The author talks about this quote with the intention of showing the reader that even though Steve Jobs is a pioneer in the computing world, he still encountered many failures unannounced to the world and his peers--and even lost the company that he built from the ground up.

In life, we have to accept that not everything goes as planned and understand that we are going to fail at one time or another. What we can control is the way we view the situation. I was born with mild sensorineural hearing loss in my right and left ears – a hearing loss that is both permanent and currently incurable. In my eyes, this physical complication is not a setback but rather a lifelong opportunity to illustrate my grit and strength. While I am sometimes insecure and less than confident, especially in noisy and large environments, I am determined to prove myself as more than just a victim of hearing loss. By viewing my life through a positive lens I am able to take a positive approach to failure which has helped me be successful.

The next time when a goal you have doesn’t go according to plan and you feel like the world is crashing right in front of your face, just remember that it is all happening for a reason. View your failure from a positive perspective which will allow your mind to be more clear which will allow you to conquer your goals. As the great Bobby Knight once said “The will to succeed is important, but what's more important is the will to prepare” (Bobby Knight). Failing will lead you to bigger and better things. If you maintain a positive perspective and never give
up on your dreams things will go your way. Use Steve Jobs as an example and know that he wouldn’t have had the success he did without the failure he endured.
Works Cited