

Week 3 Overview

Word of the Week: Perseverance

Quote of the Week: *I have learned that success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed.*

-Booker T. Washington

Points of Emphasis:

- Help students understand why it's so important to do well in school and graduate.
- Compare and contrast the demands of education now vs. the early 1900's.
- Challenge students to implement the study skills into their homework routine.
- Challenge students to commit to the 9-week academic challenge.

Ethical Monday:

- The instructor will overview the week by showing the Week 3 PowerPoint presentation.
- Direct students to complete quote exercise located in student workbook, followed by a discussion.
- The ethical dilemma is geared around high school dropouts.
- Lecture on the importance of education. Many people tell students to stay in school, but they don't tell them why.

Character Movie Tuesday: Rudy

Role Model Wednesday: Quiz and discussion on Chapter 3 - Booker T. Washington. Be sure to emphasize the importance of perseverance in the discussion.

Basic Skill Thursday:

Week 3 Skill: Study Skills

Week 3 Speaker: _____

Current Event Activity

Assignment Friday: Today's work force is requiring more skills and education than ever before. Yet, 3 out of 10 students drop out of high school. 1) What profession would you like to work in when you grow up and what kind of education do you need to obtain that job? Note: Do not list professional athlete, singer, actor or other long-shot dreams. 2) If you were the principal of this school, what specific steps would you take to keep students from dropping out? 3) What was the most challenging experience you have ever had in school? What did you do to persevere through that experience?

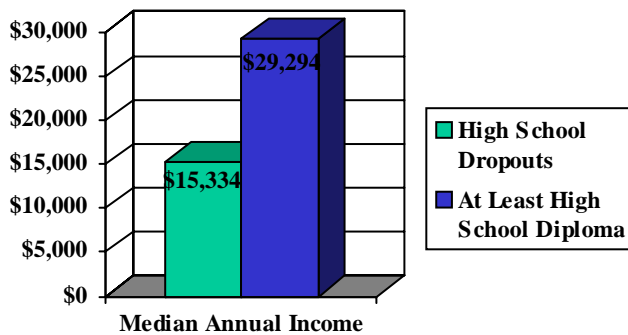
Week 3 Lecture – “Why” We Should Stay In School

Objectives of lecture:

- Provide a strong rationale for doing well and graduating from high school.
- Present data on graduation/dropout rates.
- Encourage students to apply themselves and take the 6-week academic challenge.

Generation after generation, adults tell kids to “stay in school.” These adults are usually speaking from experience. They understand that education means opportunity, greater earning potential and usually a better life. The problem is most adults don’t convey these reasons very well to kids. This lecture is designed to inform kids about the many reasons to stay in school and to inspire them to do well and graduate.

Put up Mean Income Level based on Income overhead(s) and discuss.



Greene, J.P. (2002). The Manhattan Institute for Policy Research

High School Dropout:	$\$18,500 \times 30 \text{ years} = \$555,000$
High School Graduate	$\$21,000 \times 30 \text{ years} = \$630,000$
College Graduate (Bachelors Degree)	$\$43,000 \times 30 \text{ years} = \$1,290,000$
Master’s Degree	$\$61,000 \times 30 \text{ years} = \$1,830,000$
Ph.D.	$\$94,000 \times 30 \text{ years} = \$2,820,000$
M.D.	$\$212,000 \times 30 \text{ years} = \$6,360,000$

Reason #1 - Money: Be sure to emphasize that these figures are based on averages. The students will probably know a few high school dropouts who make over \$100,000 a year. Be sure to ask what these people do. More times than not, they have skills (plumber, electrician) or own their own business. Unfortunately, there are not many high paying jobs for uneducated people in America anymore. Education usually equals a higher income, which means a more comfortable life.

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Reason #2 - More Options: The days of somebody working for the same company for 30 years and retiring are gone. The average person will change jobs over 10 times and change their profession over 4 times in a lifetime of working. Each new employer is going to want to see a resume. They will want to know what level of education you attained and where you graduated from. Whether it's fair or not:

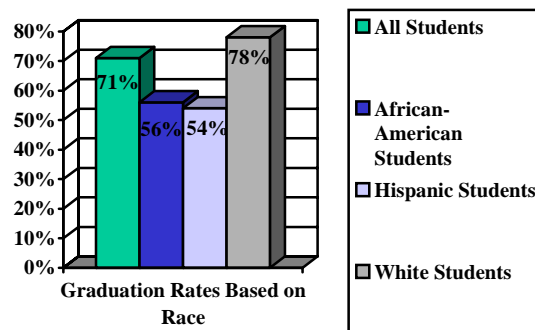
- Most employers will not hire a person without an education unless it is an entry level position. Even most factories will not hire a high school dropout anymore.
- A person with a Ph.D. can usually get a job at a local factory, but a person without a high school diploma will never get a job teaching at a high school or a university.
- Most people want to advance in a career and get promoted. It usually brings more money and freedom. However, one of the qualifications for getting promoted is usually education.

For instance, a school teacher, regardless of how great a leader, will never become a principal unless she/he has a master's degree. Regardless of how qualified a principal is, she/he will never become a superintendent without a Ph.D. Therefore, securing an education, gives you more options in life.

If possible, bring in a newspaper and list the job qualifications and salaries for different positions. Ask students what types of jobs they want and talk to them about the educational background those jobs require.

Reason #3: Jeopardy Factor: Education provides you with a breadth of knowledge. You learn a variety of facts about a variety of subjects in high school. The more you read, the more you know. Those contestants who did so well on *Who Wants to be a Millionaire* or *Jeopardy* most likely paid attention in school and committed themselves to lifelong learning. Similarly, when you are with a group of strangers and topics such as politics, world history or art comes up; it is nice to add something to the conversation. When you become an adult, you will be surprised at how many ways an education pays off. A diploma is usually accompanied by a sense of **pride (reason #4)**.

High School Dropouts: The graduation rate in this country is 71%. That means out of every 100 students who enter high school, 29 will quit before they graduate. African-Americans and Hispanics have even lower graduation rates. **Put up *Graduation Rates by Race* overhead** and invite them to discuss the reasons for this.



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Put up the *Reasons and Consequences of Dropping out of School* overhead. The main contributors to dropping out of school are:

- Poor grades (if someone is not good at something, they feel like giving up)
- Student dislikes school
- Student doesn't feel like teachers/principals care about them
- Student does not make connection between school and future success
- Parent does not stress the importance of education at home

High school dropouts commonly say they quit because they didn't like school. We can all understand that, but it's not like everybody who stays in school loves all aspects of school. At times, high school can be challenging and difficult. Other times, school can be boring and tedious. In other words, not liking something is not a good excuse to quit. Graduating from high school and college requires perseverance. As you have learned in this lecture, it's worth it to stick it out.

Review *Role Models Who Have Persevered* handout to inspire the students. Almost everybody who has become successful has had to overcome major obstacles in their own lives.

Challenge: I have never met an athlete who said, "second place is good enough." I have never met a business person who didn't want to make more money. I have never heard of musicians who wanted errors to occur on their album. Unfortunately, I meet students all the time who are satisfied with a B or even a C. In all facets of our lives, we should want to do our best. Don't settle for second-best. Push yourself to the limit.

Today, we have talked about the importance of graduating from high school and going to college. However, my wish for you is that you do not just merely graduate. I want you to pay attention in your classes, study hard for exams and complete your assignments. There is no secret to getting good grades. It all comes down to applying yourself. **I challenge everybody in this class to a 6-week academic challenge.** For the next 6 weeks, you will put forth your best effort in all your classes. **Who will take me up on this challenge?** No, there is no reward for this. However, I promise you that your grades will improve and you will have more confidence.

Perseverance Character Movie - Rudy

Overview: This movie is based on the real life events of Rudy Rudiger. Rudy (Sean Astin) is a young man who always dreamed of playing football for Notre Dame. The only problem is that he does not have the grades to get in nor the athletic ability to make the team. But, he has heart and the willingness to persevere over all obstacles. Rudy shows us the power of the human spirit in this unforgettable movie.

Moral of the Story: It's one thing to have a dream, it's another to do everything in your power to make those dreams come true.

Selected Scenes

Scenes 2 - middle of 4 (9:13 - 14:55)	5 minutes
Scenes 9 - middle of 11 (26:06 - 33:25)	7 minutes
Scenes 16 - end (55:59 - 1:50:15)	<u>55 minutes</u>
Total	67 minutes

Discussion Questions

- 1) Just like the lecture from week 2, Rudy had desire, envisioned what he wanted, set goals, was willing to sacrifice, and persevered over all obstacles. Of these five, which one do you think is most important to becoming successful?
- 2) In scene 2, Rudy is called out by a teacher because he is a dreamer. We all have dreams as kids. Do you have a dream yet? What is it? Are you willing to work as hard as Rudy to achieve your dream?
- 3) This movie is as much about persevering in academics as it is in athletics. Why is it cool when someone works so hard in athletics, but when that person does so in academics, he/she is sometimes picked on?
- 4) Like everyone who took risks, Rudy had many people who doubted him. Do you have people who doubt you? Who believes in you?
- 5) An underlying theme in this movie is that even if you don't achieve your goal, the hard work usually pays off in other ways. In other words, the journey makes you stronger and prepares you for life's next opportunity. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
- 6) In the end, Rudy's heart and determination made believers out of everyone - his family, the coaches and his friends. The fact that the fans chanted his name and the players carried him off the field is a testament to how much he inspired everyone. What have you done that inspires others? Who has inspired you?

Chapter 3 Role Model Quiz on Perseverance – Booker T. Washington

1. Booker T. Washington was born a slave in this state.
A. Virginia
B. South Carolina
C. West Virginia
D. Alabama
2. What did Booker T. Washington value more than anything?
A. Money
B. Love
C. Education
D. Respect
3. The Tuskegee Institute became famous in the 1930s and 1940s when it trained _____.
A. Fighter pilots
B. Astronauts
C. Real Estate Agents
D. Meteorologists
4. List at least two ways Booker T. Washington demonstrated perseverance in his life?
5. Students at The Tuskegee Institute were required to do more than modern day students at college. List at least two of those requirements.
6. Booker T. Washington proves that you can make any dream a reality. What's your biggest dream and how do you plan to overcome obstacles that might come your way?

Week 3 Basic Skill – Learning Study Skills

Rationale: Desire and effort are essential components to becoming successful at school. However, many kids have these traits, but still do poorly in school. There are certainly smarter ways to study than others. Last week the students learned the importance of organizing and scheduling. This week the students will learn basic study skills that will help them reach their potential at school.

Exercise: Make a deal with students to use these skills for the rest of the semester to determine how much they improve their grades.

Preparing to Study:

- Use your planner to remember important due dates and test dates.
- Set aside a specific amount of time every day for homework (ex. 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.) and be willing to put in more or less work, pending the demands of tomorrow.
- Don't begin studying on an empty stomach or when you are really tired.
- Don't wait until the last minute to start a big project. Build in plenty of time for editing, revising, computer malfunctions, emergencies...
- Study in comfortable places. Pay particular attention to lighting, temperature and noise level. If you get tired, switch to a new room.
- Minimize distractions by turning off the television and radio. Don't answer the phone and do not return email during times devoted to study.
- Ask the instructor specifics about the exam. Will it be an objective exam, essay or fill in the blank? Will the questions come more from lecture or book?

Study Skills:

- Set Goals. Write down how many chapters you will read, questions you will answer, or pages you will write in a certain study session.
- Prioritize your work and do harder assignments first while the brain is in high gear. For you procrastinators, it might be better to begin with smaller projects to get into the groove.
- Study for 50 minutes and then take a 10-minute break. Get up, walk around, stretch or get something to eat or drink.
- Avoid cramming for exams. It is better to study in small chunks and get plenty of sleep the night before an exam.
- Sometimes it can be advantageous to study with a friend, especially if you are both motivated. Compare notes and quiz each other.
- When reading, be sure to highlight or underline important points. Afterwards, write these important points on note cards. Spend the rest of your time studying the note cards.
- When writing papers, begin with an outline and use headings to organize your paper. Write the paper early, and then have someone edit it. Even the best, experienced writers need editors.

Week 3 Assignment – Succeeding In School

Today's work force is requiring more skills and education than ever before. Yet, 3 out of 10 students drop out of high school without the necessary skills (4 out of 10 African-Americans).

- 1) What profession would you like to work in when you grow up and what kind of education do you need to obtain that job? Note: Do not list professional athlete, singer, actor or other long-shot dreams.
- 2) If you were the principal of this school, what specific steps would you take to keep students from dropping out?
- 3) What was the most challenging experience you have ever had in school? What did you do to persevere through that experience?

Handout - Role Models Who Have Persevered

Michael Jordan, arguably the best basketball player of all time, was cut from his high school basketball team. In a Nike commercial from 1995, he said, "Twenty-six times I've been trusted to take the game-winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life and that is why I succeed."

Before he successfully invented the light bulb, Thomas Edison invented over 1,000 ways not to invent the light bulb. After one more failed attempt, he said, "That's one more way it won't work, so we're closer to a solution." Edison went on to receive 1,093 patents for his numerous inventions.

Jack Nicklaus won 18 major golf championships - more than any other person. He also holds the record for most second place finishes in major championships - 19.

Colonel Harland Sanders developed a "finger-licking good" recipe for fried chicken in Kentucky. He hoped others might be interested. Over 1,000 people turned him down before somebody agreed to use his recipe. There are currently over 32,500 KFC restaurants around the world.

Lance Armstrong never came close to winning the Tour de France. In 1995 he was diagnosed with cancer and was given less than a 50% chance of living. He defied the odds and persevered. He went on to win 6 straight Tour de France titles.

In 1955 Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a white person on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. After she was arrested, the black community decided to boycott the bus system until the city changed its segregation policy. For 382 consecutive days, proud black citizens walked to and fro, and in the process, they started the civil rights movement and changed America.

**As your students come up with more examples of perseverance,
email them to jhoedel@characterandleadership.com.**