

Good Afternoon. Today I'm going to speak to you briefly on the importance of getting an education and the importance of staying in school.

Your QUALITY OF LIFE depends greatly on your education. You may ask, what is quality of life? Quality of life is about feeling good and being satisfied with things in general. Quality of life is about fulfilling the societal and cultural demands for material wealth, social status and physical well-being. You may now be wondering how can I achieve a better quality of life for my family and myself? Stay in school and get an education is the answer.

Obtaining an education will enable you to become more efficient and to achieve the legitimate goals of your life. You may have a good life now, but it can always be a little better. Everyone can become a little more educated, in order to make a better life for themselves. An education can include many things: completing high school, going to a community college, attending a university or learning a skill or trade. Any of these options will help you become more successful in your future. You become more valuable as an employee, when you have more to offer your employer. You become more valuable as a business, when you have more to offer your clients.

An education will train you for quick, effective thinking. To think incisively and to think for one's self is very difficult. We are prone to let our mental life become invaded by legions of half-truths and prejudices. Being educated and aware will help you grow as a person and gain a better quality of life.

On the other hand, being intelligent and educated is not enough. You must have morals also. Intelligence plus character, that is the goal of a true education. A person who possesses these

two key components will be an asset to any employer, organization or themselves.

Winston Churchill captured the concept for career searching when he said, “Success is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm.” You may not always succeed the first time, but you have to continue trying if you plan to succeed. When you give up and stop trying to achieve a goal, then you have failed. You must have the courage and determination to succeed. You must be willing to work to give yourself a better quality of life.

The American Dream cannot be obtained on a minimum wage salary. You will need more money than a part-time job can provide if you want to improve your quality of life. Dropping out of school, not attending a university and not learning a trade will guarantee a less than desirable quality of life. You have the ability to make your life be whatever you choose. Resources exist to help you achieve these goals. You must be willing to go research and find ways to make your dreams come true. You cannot expect someone else to do all the work for you. If you sit around and wait on your friends, family, teacher or others to give you something, you may wait too late. They can guide you and point you in the right direction, but this is your life, you have to do the work.

I’m going to give you a few points to consider about your education and career path:

Be sure the environment you select is one in which you will thrive. Don’t confuse environment with expertise. It is more important to find a climate that makes you happy and successful, than finding a specific industry for your education. An accountant does not have to work for an accounting firm. An educator does not have to work for a school. Your education may be specific, but

you have many options. A job may pay a lot of money and it may specifically target your education, but you may work 60 hours a week, have 30 minute lunch breaks and a high level of stress. You must weigh all the options. Selecting the right environment doesn't always result in the highest compensation, but it may result in the greatest joy.

Be sure not to worry too much. You will find this is not very productive. Usually the things you worry about won't happen, and the things that you don't worry about come out of the blue. I'm not saying you should not be prepared, but you don't need to get caught up worrying about trivial issues that you may or may not have control over.

You also need to have enthusiasm and passion. Andrew Carnegie said that enthusiasm is the engine of life. You will be successful if you love what you do. When other people see your enthusiasm, they will be more prone to want to get involved or to help you succeed. Passion, Enthusiasm and Commitment are contagious, and I feel they are absolutely necessary for success.

Finally, be true to yourself no matter what you do. Never compromise your principles. Sometimes this will lead to difficult decisions in life, but in the long run I believe adherence to principles is essential. Ethical and moralistic judgments are much more difficult today. Keep your perspective. Fortunes are made quickly today, but reputations are still the most precious commodity.

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