

Perseverance

“Keep away from people who belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great.”

—Mark Twain

“You can be anything you want to be, if only you believe with sufficient conviction and act in accordance with your faith; for whatever the mind can conceive and believe, the mind can achieve.”

—Napoleon Hill

Theme: Believing in Dreams

Film: *School of Rock*

(PG13) 1:51

Dewey has been thrown out of his band and told that he is an utter failure in life. Standing before his students, Dewey tells them the depressing news that failure is all they should ever expect. “The Man,” he claims, will never let them succeed, so they might as well not try at all. His students don’t know what to make of him.

Watch Video Clip – Channel 67 – after Channel 1

Teaser Question: Do you agree with him? Why? Why not?

Going Deeper: How do friends help you persevere? How are they at times not so very helpful? How do you know when working harder will help you succeed or when, no matter how hard you work, you will still not be able to reach your goal?

Making Choices: You have a friend who is good in a sport, but not extraordinary. Your friend dreams of one day becoming a professional athlete. You know that only a small percentage of people ever make it to the professional level. What would you advise your friend to do:

A: Press on towards the dream?

B: Make an alternate plan as a backup?

C: Give up on the dream?

Activity: Steps to Take

Performance Objective:

To consider the things we need to do in order to reach our goals in life.

Materials Needed:

Sheets of paper with steps drawn on them, separate sheets of paper, pens, pencils.

Teachers' Instructions:

- Give each student a sheet of paper with steps drawn on it.
- Have students write on the top step a big goal or dream (for example, "to be an astronaut," "be in a band," "write a book," "play professional baseball").
- Ask your students to think about what it would take to achieve that particular goal. On a SEPARATE sheet of paper, student can write down various things that would need to be done.
- Have your students read through the things they wrote and write them down as steps to take on the "steps sheet," reaching up to the top step, which is the goal.
- Split students into pairs to share with one another their "steps sheet," talking about the goal and the various steps that would need to be taken to get there.
- Ask the students (still in pairs) to write on the bottom of the "step sheet" which classes or extracurricular activities they are doing now that are helpful in working toward the final goal (for example Math and Science for "be an astronaut," or English for "write a book"). Students then talk with their partners about what they wrote.
- Upon finishing, the "steps sheets" can be put on the wall in the classroom or hall.