

Cambodia Students Association in Japan

Essay Contest 2010

“What is your primary future goal? What would you do to accomplish it?”

Name: SREY Sokhdara

Age: 21

Address: #71A, Street 271, Sangkart Teukthla, Khan Russey keo, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

E-mail: hopedara@gmail.com

Tel: 017 831 238

Summary

My primary goal is to become a university English lecturer. Before I came up with this goal I had already spent a few years considering many other goals. The point that makes me choose it is because it is **SMART¹ (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time-bound)**. Even though I have this intended goal, I must say it is not yet the end; there are many tasks I need to do to achieve it. Most importantly, I have to study hard and smart. By doing this I strongly believe that I will get a good grade and become a qualified candidate. Along with this, I also have to be committed and persistent to overcome any difficulties and challenges which are unavoidable in life. Moreover, being an optimistic and a fully motivated person can give me a strong foundation. Life as a student is not easy, and you can see why. I enrolled in school since I was about six years old and it has been about fifteen years now, but I still have no permanent job that can support myself. I have seen my friends and many other people who lose courage and are hopeless and thus afraid to go on. However, it's very lucky of me to have a very positive view on every action I have done and now I am living in a very hopeful world. Besides, I am learning to master myself because I want to lead a life of development with less interference from the outside circumstances. To do that I must initially find out my weak points and change them and at the same time improve the positive ones. After that, I must earn money to support my study and living expense in this modern city. Without money, no matter how great I am, I am sure I cannot pursue any further education. For this reason, I must try in every possible way to get a job, at least to get some money. What's more, I have decided to work as a teacher to prepare for the requirement that most of the jobs nowadays required— experience. Then, I will build up a strong network to have more access to information I need; meanwhile I also have to try harder to be familiar with the job recruitment process. The more I get to know about it, the better I can plan in advance. Last, I need some rest because trying too hard is not a good thing to do. What I pay closer attention to are eating and resting—just to be healthy to be able to stick to my plan. My body will not work if there is no strength in me. In conclusion, having a specific goal is a significant part guiding us to a real world in life, without it we will be uncertain of what to do and the whole life would be meaningless. So dream big and go for it, don't care about losing or winning since *Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts*².

¹ SMART Goal [online]. Retrieved from: http://www.mindtools.com/pages/article/newHTE_05.htm

²Winning Attitude[online]. Retrieved from:

<http://www.lifeoptimizer.org/2008/10/22/self-motivation-how-to-motivate-yourself/>

Introduction

There is no doubt that most people, if not all, in the world have their own goals, some want to be doctors, managers, teachers, while other want to be policemen, engineers, businessmen, etc. Like all of them, my primary goal is to become a university English lecturer because I really adore this job. However, achieving a goal is not that easy, it takes a long time which is why I have to plan well of what I have to do. Here are some important steps I need to take.

Body

According to the Wikipedia³, A **goal** is a projected state of affairs that a person or a system plans or intends to achieve—a personal or organizational desired end-point in some sort of assumed development. Many people endeavor to reach goals within a finite time by setting deadlines. By looking at this definition, I can say that setting a goal is not simple; I need to consider many other points before deciding to become a university lecturer. In fact, my goal is SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time-bound), and then I divide the tasks I have to complete.

The first vital thing I need to do is study hard and smart. Why is it not just studying? And why does it need to be smart? For sure, when you are trying to study hard it is a good thing, but it doesn't guarantee that you know more, so it will work better if you practice a correct study methods. These methods include taking note of what lecturers explain, summarizing the main points of the reading passages or stories I have just read, and self-study, just to name a few. Due to the fact that my goal is to become a language lecturer, I have to be qualified in the subject, especially with the four major skills—reading, writing, listening and speaking. To be a skillful teacher I cannot just know one of these four, otherwise I will be called an amateur. I am saying this because I used to study with a teacher who was fluent in speaking. I really admired him for this, but later on I found out he was very bad in grammar, and whenever it came to this session everyone in the class felt very sleepy because the teacher could not even make himself understood, and let alone the students. Therefore, I do not want to follow his footsteps, which is why I have to build up my capacity by studying hard and smart. Moreover, studying basically needs my commitment and perseverance. I have to be determined of what I am going to do no matter how hard it is. I cannot give up half way through but I have to keep going until the end. I agree that everyone may know that studying takes a real toll, but if you can do it you will get a fruitful result at the end. Remember that “no pain, no gain”

Furthermore, I have to be self-motivated and optimistic, which means I always have to think positively about myself and my actions and know how to encourage myself whenever encountering difficulties. It is true that if compared to the outstanding students I am so far behind them because they have been studying English for many years, whereas I am a new starter. Even so, I have never given up, instead I think “what they can do I also can, but what they can't I still can”. And now my English is far better than before, if it's not the same as them, but at least it's

³ Wikipedia: Definition of goal [online]. Retrieved from: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goal>

going closer. In addition, I must be able to keep my spirit high no matter how discouraging the situations are because that's the only way to get the strength to overcome difficulties. People who are discouraged in difficult times are certainly to lose even before the competition is over. Remember that life can get you down, but it's you who choose to be up. **People who are unable to motivate themselves must be content with mediocrity, no matter how impressive their other talents.**⁴ So, never had I said I am fighting a losing-battle but a challenging one.

Besides, mastering myself is also a mean to my destination. Sometimes I have to gracefully accept that there are things I cannot change and I learn to live with them, even when I don't like them. In making this powerful choice, I do not allow the problems or current challenges to control me. **If you master yourself, you can master anything.**⁵ But the question is how I can do that. For sure, in doing that I need to find out my bad and good points—get rid of the negative ones and work to improve the positive ones. So far, I find out that procrastination is playing a very harmful distracter in my success. Honestly speaking, I am a person who likes to put off my works until the day before the deadline, as a result I never got more than the survival points, which serves me right, I think. Later on, I understand that procrastination never pays me more than regret, so I promise to never put off till tomorrow what I can do today. In contrast to my bad point, whenever I can find out about my positive point I can also strengthen it by using it as much as possible or simply I find other ways to improve it. And of course, I surely can do it, and my work is getting up rapidly, after all.

Maybe it's generally accepted that money is the bridge leading me forward, in other words without it, I can say I cannot attend university unless I get scholarship. As you know that tertiary education can cost you a fortune that you will have to pay hundreds of dollars every year for four or five years to get just a bachelor degree. Take my case as an example, I am now taking English major. To get a degree in this subject, I need to pay four hundred and fifty dollars per year and it takes four years to graduate, which means I will have to spend one thousand and eight hundred dollars. Moreover, I need not only pay for the school fee, but I also have to pay for the rent house fee, eating, gasoline and other necessary materials. You can imagine how expensive the goods are in the city, it is far pricier than those in the province where I grew up. Thus, without the support from my family, I would not be in university right now; nevertheless, this support is never enough. Because of this matter I am now fining myself in a condition of needing immediate job just to get some extra income to loosen my family burden. Luckily, I could find a job as a part-time English teacher and although I can get some money to pay just half of my living expenses, it is better than nothing, after all.

Due to the reason that most of the jobs nowadays required experiences, I have decided to work as a teacher to prepare for this requirement. This teaching can be full-time or part-time as long as I gain some experience. Moreover, experience is important because it can prove if I am

⁴ *Winning Attitude*[online]. Retrieved from:

<http://www.lifeoptimizer.org/2008/10/22/self-motivation-how-to-motivate-yourself/>

⁵ If You Master Yourself, You Can Master Anything [online]. Retrieved from:

http://www.facebook.com/note.php?note_id=117539986103

qualified with my major or not. Sometimes, knowing theory alone does not mean I can work, but having experience I definitely can. As for now I am working as an English teacher, and it is sure I can kill two birds with one stone. I can not only earn the money, but at the same time I gain some experiences, so before I graduate I will surely have at least two-years experience. Anyway, volunteerism also plays a key role in my plan since it really makes my back-up plan works smoothly. In case I could not achieve my goal after my graduation, I will for sure apply for a master degree abroad. The benefit is that volunteerism can give me a plus to win the scholarship oversea. Saying this, I mean most scholarship now require applicants who have involved in social activities or community services, so if I have one, my chance is higher than those who have not. Even more, when I get a master degree oversea, it will be very easy for me to apply for my dream job.

Similarly, networking is another crucial factor because getting to know a lot of people can keep me informed about the jobs available. Why is it so? The reason is sometimes I don't know when there are job recruitments, so maybe some of my friends knowing them could help pass the news to me. For example, if a university is recruiting new lecturers and I don't know, thus I will miss the chance. In this case if I know someone working there she/he may tell me and I have a chance to apply for it. However, saying so doesn't explain that I have to entirely depend on my friend, I also need to find opportunity on my own, but it is just that having more friends can widen that chance.

Getting to know more about the job selection process is also a plus for my goal achievement, for it can help me prepared for the battle. I am sure you probably have heard or known someone who failed the test because he was not familiar with the test process or someone who passes the test because he knew clearly about it. The same applies to my future goal in that different universities have different recruitment processes. Like IFL, for instance, the selection is divided into many stages, some of which are very complicated. So the more I am familiar with the recruitment, the greater chance I have in the competition.

Last but not least, too much of something is not good, thus I can't just study all the time, otherwise I will feel so distressed or simply go crazy even before I can achieve the aim. I desperately need to rest. Resting here can take many forms. It can be enough sleeping, healthy eating, going for a walk, doing something fun, so on and so forth. If I can do that, I will be strong, healthy and fresh. Consequently, I can learn fast, and remember well. Believe it or not, you can try to study hard, but sleep and eat less, I bet not until one month will you feel tired, and find your body deteriorating. Remember, ***“Resting is not quitting the busy career, rest is the fitting of self in its sphere”***

Conclusion

In short, all I have mentioned above clearly explains my plan of achieving my most important aim in my life, which includes, studying hard and smart, commitment and perseverance, self-motivation, self-mastering, finance, experience, volunteerism, networking, accessing the information, and relaxation. Even though it is hard to complete, it is still possible as long as I am committed to it. ***Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to***

continue that counts.⁶ Being a person one should always has a goal, no matter how big or small it is, because it can lead our way of life to a specific place. A life without goal is just like a water cycle that goes to the same old way, without any development, and this kind of life is very useless and we should avoid. Let's take a dream and make it come true! ***Only as high as I reach can I grow, only as far as I seek can I go, only as deep as I look can I see, only as much as I dream can I be***⁷.

^{6,7}

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