the process

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Tell Back
failure leads to success

Rock Bottom: How Great Leaders Triumph Over Failure

Steve Jobs was fired from his own company; Nelson Mandela spent 27 years in prison; and Abraham Lincoln failed in business, had a nervous breakdown, and was defeated in eight elections. So how did all these people achieve such extraordinary success?

We all know of business leaders, authors, celebrities, and sports stars who after a brief moment in the sun hit rock bottom only to rise again, overcome adverse circumstances, claw their way back to the top, and inspire the world around them. The stuff of legends and Hollywood movies, these comeback stories are incredible to hear. But when failure is fresh, it’s often hard to believe that recovery, let alone success, is possible.

From rejection to workplace screw-ups, everyone has experienced that all-too-familiar gut-wrenching numbness. Even small failures can stalk you like a dark cloud, causing others to question your abilities. Worse, it can seriously undermine your self-assurance.

In my early years in business, I nearly drove a company I had founded bankrupt. I betrayed my own values and goals and lost everything, including the support of many important people in my life. However, it was from this adversity that I discovered the three keys to overcoming failure:

Responsibility: Be Your Own Master
Nelson Mandela spent 27 years in prison before becoming the first president of South Africa to be elected in a fully representative democratic election. During his time in jail, he kept a scrap of paper in his cell that contained the words of a poem by William Ernest Henley, entitled “Invictus.” It ends with the famous lines, “I am the master of my fate: I am the captain of my soul.”

To make it through times of extreme adversity, you need to embody these words. Take responsibility for the results you create in your life, and keep agreements with yourself. They are at least as important as agreements with others.

Self-Acceptance: Find Peace with Yourself
From his eight election failures to the civil war, perhaps no U.S. president suffered more hardship than Abraham Lincoln. But throughout his presidency he remained steadfast, and was even quoted saying that if by the end of his term, “I have lost every other friend on earth, I shall at least have one friend left, and that friend shall be down inside of me.”

Always show loyalty to yourself. Embrace your weaknesses and shortcomings, but work to turn them into strengths. You cannot control the negative opinions of people around you, but with self-acceptance, you can block out the noise.

Trust: Listen to Your Gut
As Steve Jobs once said during a famous commencement speech, “You have to trust in something. Your gut, destiny, life, karma, whatever. Because believing that the dots will connect down the road will give you the confidence to follow your heart, even when it leads you off the well-worn path.”

Human beings are often irrational, but you should always trust your intuition and your instincts. Make your judgments based on experience and listen to your gut. Understand that you will make wrong decisions and you will fail but that,
without these experiences, you’ve never truly lived.

Having the skills and the wherewithal to rebuild your platform requires you to 1) take responsibility for the bad result and negotiate your way out of it, 2) refuse to be deterred by a setback that five years from now will be nothing more than a great learning experience, and 3) proceed with utmost integrity using both your heart and your mind to guide you along the road back.

As the leaders of corporate organizations and entrepreneurial ventures, we put ourselves on the line every day. Things can break in the most unlikely of places (sometimes totally beyond your control), but you still own the result.

When you hit rock bottom – and you probably will at some point in your life – rely on the package of skills that gets leaders to the top in the first place. I call these the Skills of Engagement™:

1. Listening actively
2. Thinking critically
3. Communicating transparently
4. Owning the result
5. Influencing obstructionists, the timid, and the disengaged
6. Negotiating a favorable outcome

Also remember that you will not be able to make the climb back to the top alone. Assembling a stellar team and defining an interpersonal dynamic based on the Skills of Engagement are the building blocks of your resurgence. If you mix these with a little unabashed charisma, you may even take pleasure in the challenges of the journey back.

The great paradox is that the people who enjoy the most public successes often endure the greatest private failures. However, these leaders understand, and even expect, that storms will come their way. They also realize that it’s how they handle the dark moments that gives them the internal strength to shine during their brightest ones.

So stand tall when you hit rock bottom, and focus on the wise proverb “this too shall pass…” While it might not seem like it at the time, with responsibility, self-acceptance, and trust, you can leverage the Skills of Engagement and overcome even your greatest failures.
Circle the best answer to the following questions based on the article “Rock Bottom: How Great Leaders Triumph Over Failure”

1. Who is one of the successful figures who learned from failure?
   a. Henry Ford
   b. Abraham Lincoln
   c. Bill Gates
   d. Thomas Edison

2. What did the author of the article do in the early years of his business?
   a. fire all of his employees
   b. lie to his business partners
   c. got in trouble for tax evasion
   d. nearly drove his company bankrupt

3. How many years did Nelson Mandela spend in prison?
   a. 7
   b. 19
   c. 27
   d. 35

4. What poem did Mandela keep in his prison cell?
   a. “The Road Not Taken”
   b. “O Captain! My Captain!”
   c. “A Dream Deferred”
   d. “Invictus”

5. According to the article, what can you use to block out the negative opinions of others?
   a. a strong circle of close friends
   b. commitment
   c. self-acceptance
   d. a sense of humor

6. The author says you should always trust...
   a. your intuition and instincts
   b. the advice of your parents
   c. reliable news sources like Forbes and The Wall Street Journal
   d. all of the above

7. “Proceeding with the utmost integrity” means using …
   a. your education and experience
   b. your judgment and your professionalism
   c. your heart and your mind
   d. none of the above

8. The Skills of Engagement™ include all of the following except:
   a. listening actively
   b. communicating transparently
   c. negotiating a favorable outcome
   d. speaking optimistically

9. Along with the Skills of Engagement™, what two other things will help one take pleasure in the journey back from failure?
   a. charisma and a stellar team
   b. commitment and a sense of humor
   c. strong friendships and giving thanks
   d. exercise and a love of nature

10. What “wise proverb” does the author invoke to sum up the feeling of the article?
    a. “good things come to those who wait …”
    b. “this too shall pass …”
    c. “patience is a virtue …”
    d. “actions speak louder than words …”

Comprehension Score: ____________
(number correct x 10)
It’s a Fork, It’s a Spoon, It’s a … Weapon?
by Ian Urbina. Excerpt from The New York Times. © October 11, 2009. All rights reserved.

Finding character witnesses when you are 6 years old is not easy. But there was Zachary Christie last week at a school disciplinary committee hearing with his karate instructor and his mother’s fiancé by his side to vouch for him.

Zachary’s offense? Taking a camping utensil that can serve as a knife, fork and spoon to school. He was so excited about recently joining the Cub Scouts that he wanted to use it at lunch. School officials concluded that he had violated their zero-tolerance policy on weapons, and Zachary was suspended and now faces 45 days in the district’s reform school.

“It just seems unfair,” Zachary said, pausing as he practiced writing lower-case letters with his mother, who is home-schooling him while the family tries to overturn his punishment.

Spurred in part by the Columbine and Virginia Tech shootings, many school districts around the country adopted zero-tolerance policies on the possession of weapons on school grounds. More recently, there has been growing debate over whether the policies have gone too far.

But, based on the code of conduct for the Christina School District, where Zachary is a first grader, school officials had no choice. They had to suspend him because, “regardless of possessor’s intent,” knives are banned.

But the question on the minds of residents here is: Why do school officials not have more discretion in such cases?

“Zachary wears a suit and tie some days to school by his own choice because he takes school so seriously,” said Debbie Christie, Zachary’s mother, who started a Web site, helpzachary.com, in hopes of recruiting supporters to pressure the local school board at its next open meeting on Tuesday. “He is not some sort of threat to his classmates.”

Still, some school administrators argue that it is difficult to distinguish innocent pranks and mistakes from more serious threats, and that the policies must be strict to protect students.

For Delaware, Zachary’s case is especially frustrating because last year state lawmakers tried to make disciplinary rules more flexible by giving local boards authority to, “on a case-by-case basis, modify the terms of the expulsion.”

The law was introduced after a third-grade girl was expelled for a year because her grandmother had sent a birthday cake to school, along with a knife to cut it. The teacher called the principal — but not before using the knife to cut and serve the cake.
1. Zachary was given the camping utensil because he recently joined what organization?

___________________________________________________________________________

2. What grade is Zachary in?

___________________________________________________________________________

3. What does Zachary wear on some days to school to show how seriously he takes it?

___________________________________________________________________________

4. The law was introduced after a grandmother sent what to her third-grade granddaughter at school?

___________________________________________________________________________
As you read, tension, stress, and fatigue build up, especially in the eyes. This prevents clear thinking. An excellent remedy was devised by Dr. William H. Bates, who designed palming as a method for natural vision improvement in 1918.

The only time our eyes are at a complete rest is during total darkness. To rest your eyes, close your eyes and cup your hands over them. You will feel the instant relief. Do not press, but make sure no light can penetrate your fingers.

Relax through breathing. Clear your mind of all thoughts. Move your eyeballs up and down, side to side, and diagonally. This helps relieve muscle tension. Slowly uncup your hands and open your eyes. Do this exercise for a few minutes whenever you feel fatigue or eye strain.
Mind Mapping
An excerpt from Map It by Nancy Margulies

Mind Mapping / was developed / by British author Tony Buzan. / He studies one
of the most / interesting topics / in the universe: / the amazing / human brain.

We know / that every brain / has two different ways / of processing / information.
The left hemisphere / of your brain / is logical / and orderly.

The right hemisphere / is visual. / It likes color, / pictures, and emotions. / It looks
for patterns and / is interested in the / big picture.

Mind Maps are made / on unlined paper, / using color, symbols, / pictures and key
words. / So, when you / make Mind Maps / you will be using your / whole brain!
Mapping is a method / for recording ideas / that uses pictures / and symbols.

When you use / symbols on your / Mind Maps, it helps you / take notes quickly.
You will decide / what a symbol means / for your map. A / cloud could be a / thought, rain, or trouble. / With practice, / you will be able / to think of symbols
for many ideas. / Pictures and symbols / make your notes / more memorable.

Maps use words as well as / pictures and symbols. / Use key words and put / one
word on each branch. / When you print one word / on a line, you can easily branch out
to add / other related words. / It’s sort of like tree branches or roots of trees. / Notice
that when you use key words, / you don’t have to use words like “and,” “to”, and “it.” / Extensive global / research indicates that / most people / can’t read their own notes.
That’s why Mind Maps / are clearly printed.

Aoccdnig to rscheearch at an Elingsh uinervtisy, it deosn’t mtaer in waht oredr the ltteers
in a wrod are, the olny iprmoehtnt thng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer are in the rghit pclae.
The rst can be a toatl mses and you can stll rd it wouthit a porbelm. Ths is bcuseae
we do not rd ervey ltter by it slef but the wrod as wlohe and the biran fguiers it out
aynawy.
A glitzier, high-tech version of America’s $100 bill is rolling off the presses. Despite years of production-related delays, the updated $100 bill has undergone a major makeover that includes a color-changing ink well, 3-D security ribbon, and more texture on Benjamin Franklin’s collar. The new, more expensive C-note also has a higher calling: It aims to fight back against counterfeiters by using better printers and technology. The modifications will help people check for fake $100s without going to a bank or using a blacklight, said Michael Lambert, a deputy associate director at the Federal Reserve. “We try and find security features that can be used at a number of different levels, from more experienced cash handlers … down to the person on the street who really needs to know the security features so they can protect themselves,” Lambert said in an interview October 2nd.

The new $100 bill still bears the image of Franklin, one of America’s Founding Fathers. But it adds part of the Declaration of Independence, written in script from Franklin’s left shoulder to the right edge of the bill. A quill and an ink well are printed behind the text, and a blue ribbon goes down near the center of the bill.

The ink in the well changes colors from copper to green when the bill is turned. A watermark of Franklin also appears on the right side of the bill when it’s held up to light.
Intelligence Is Overrated: What You Really Need To Succeed
by Keld Jensen. From www.forbes.com/sites/keldjensen © 2012. All rights reserved.

Albert Einstein’s was estimated at 160, Madonna’s is 140, and John F. Kennedy’s was only 119, but as it turns out, your IQ score pales in comparison with your EQ, MQ, and BQ scores when it comes to predicting your success and professional achievement.

IQ tests are used as an indicator of logical reasoning ability and technical intelligence. A high IQ is often a prerequisite for rising to the top ranks of business today. It is necessary, but it is not adequate to predict executive competence and corporate success. By itself, a high IQ does not guarantee that you will stand out and rise above everyone else.

Research carried out by the Carnegie Institute of Technology shows that 85 percent of your financial success is due to skills in “human engineering,” your personality and ability to communicate, negotiate, and lead. Shockingly, only 15 percent is due to technical knowledge. Additionally, Nobel Prize winning Israeli-American psychologist, Daniel Kahneman, found that people would rather do business with a person they like and trust even if the likeable person is offering a lower quality product or service at a higher price.

With this in mind, instead of exclusively focusing on your conventional intelligence quotient, you should make an investment in strengthening your EQ (Emotional Intelligence), MQ (Moral Intelligence), and BQ (Body Intelligence). These concepts may be elusive and difficult to measure, but their significance is far greater than IQ.

Emotional Intelligence
EQ is the most well-known of the three, and in brief it is about: being aware of your own feelings and those of others, regulating these feelings in yourself and others, using emotions that are appropriate to the situation, self-motivation, and building relationships.

Top Tip for Improvement: First, become aware of your inner dialogue. It helps to keep a journal of what thoughts fill your mind during the day. Stress can be a huge killer of emotional intelligence, so you also need to develop healthy coping techniques that can effectively and quickly reduce stress in a volatile situation.

Moral Intelligence
MQ directly follows EQ as it deals with your integrity, responsibility, sympathy, and forgiveness. The way you treat yourself is the way other people will treat you. Keeping commitments, maintaining your integrity, and being honest are crucial to moral intelligence.

Top Tip for Improvement: Make fewer excuses and take responsibility for your actions. Avoid little white lies. Show sympathy and communicate respect to others. Practice acceptance and show tolerance of other people’s shortcomings. Forgiveness is not just about how we relate to others; it’s also how you relate to and feel about yourself.

Body Intelligence
Lastly, there is your BQ, or body intelligence, which reflects what you know about your body, how you feel about it, and take care of it. Your body is constantly telling you things; are you listening to the signals or ignoring them?
Are you eating energy-giving or energy-draining foods on a daily basis? Are you getting enough rest? Do you exercise and take care of your body? It may seem like these matters are unrelated to business performance, but your body intelligence absolutely affects your work because it largely determines your feelings, thoughts, self-confidence, state of mind, and energy level.

Top Tip For Improvement: At least once a day, listen to the messages your body is sending you about your health. Actively monitor these signals instead of going on autopilot. Good nutrition, regular exercise, and adequate rest are all key aspects of having a high BQ. Monitoring your weight and making sure you have down time can dramatically benefit the functioning of your brain and the way you perform at work.

What You Really Need To Succeed

It doesn’t matter if you did not receive the best academic training from a top university. A person with less education who has fully developed their EQ, MQ, and BQ can be far more successful than a person with an impressive education who falls short in these other categories.

Yes, it is certainly good to be an intelligent, rational thinker and have a high IQ; this is an important asset. But you must realize that it is not enough. Your IQ will help you personally, but EQ, MQ, and BQ will benefit everyone around you as well. If you can master the complexities of these unique and often underrated forms of intelligence, research tells us you will achieve greater success and be regarded as more professionally competent and capable.
Sleep hoes garbage out of the brain, a study of mice finds.

The trash, including pieces of proteins that cause Alzheimer's disease, piles up while the rodents are awake. Sleep opens spigots that bathe the brain in fluids and wash away the potentially toxic buildup, researchers report in the Oct. 18 Science.

The discovery may finally reveal why sleep seems mandatory for every animal. It may also shed new light on the causes of neurodegenerative disorders such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases.

"It's really an eye-opening and intriguing finding," says Chiara Cirelli, a sleep researcher at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. The results have already led her and other sleep scientists to rethink some of their own findings.

Although sleep requirements vary from individual to individual and across species, a complete lack of it is deadly. But no one knows why.

One popular idea is that sleep severs weak connections between brain cells and strengthens more robust connections to solidify memories.

But a good memory is not a biological imperative. “You don’t die from forgetting what you learned yesterday,” says Maiken Nedergaard, a neuroscientist at the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York who led the study.

Researchers in Nedergaard’s lab stumbled upon sleep’s role in garbage clearance while studying a brain drainage system they described last year. This service, called the glymphatic system, flushes fluid from the brain and spinal cord into the space between brain cells. Ultimately, the fluid and any debris it carries washes into the liver for disposal.

Studying fluid flow in the brain isn’t easy. Lulu Xie in Nedergaard’s lab trained mice to sit quietly on a microscope stage while researchers probed their brains. The mice were so relaxed that they sometimes fell asleep.

When that happened, Nedergaard says, “it was almost like you opened a faucet.” While the mice slept, cerebrospinal fluid rushed into the brain’s interstitial space and washed away debris. When the mice woke up, the faucet dried up and only a trickle of fluid left the brain.

Further experiments revealed that brain cells known as glial cells swell and shrink to control fluid flow. When mice are awake, glial cells expand, reducing the space between brain cells and shutting off fluid flow. During sleep, the cells contract and the faucet opens. The interstitial space changes in volume by at least 60 percent between wake and sleep, the researchers found.

The fluid flow’s on-off switch comes as a surprise because scientists have paid little attention to the area between cells, says Suzana Herculano-Houzel, a neuroscientist at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. “It’s usually disregarded. It’s considered just space.”
Researchers including Randall Bateman, a neurologist and neuroscientist at Washington University in St. Louis, have previously found that some substances build up in the brain during waking hours. He and others have evidence that brain cells just keep pumping out more and more of the stuff the longer a person or animal is awake, and scientists thought that was the reason garbage piled up. One substance that follows this pattern is amyloid-beta, or A-beta, a protein fragment that forms plaques in the brains of people with Alzheimer’s disease.

Levels of A-beta decrease with sleep, but researchers thought that was mostly due to enzymes and brain cells eating away the gunk, and that too little sleep meant the brain’s clean-up crew doesn’t have time to clear away all the mess. Scientists never considered that brain tissue could expand and contract enough to open flood gates and flush away toxic by-products, Bateman says. Now he’s rethinking some of his experiments.

“I’d be a fool not to pay attention to this,” he says. If the results are confirmed in people, it could mean that doctors should time Alzheimer’s treatment to when patients sleep.

Increasing the brain’s ability to rinse itself off may also combat Alzheimer’s and similar diseases, he suggests. But flushing away muck probably won’t eliminate the need for sleep altogether, he says. Even if garbage disposal is sleep’s primary task, he says, “sleep has become such an integral part of life on this planet that it serves additional functions besides clearing substances out of the brain.”
Citizens of the United States, breathe easy: The Pentagon has a plan in case of a zombie attack.

Don’t pack your bug-out bag and put up your zombie defenses, yet, however. CONPLAN 888, first uncovered this week by Foreign Policy magazine, is not an indication that the Department of Defense has gone off the deep end. The plan, written in 2011, was part of a training exercise.

Here's what you need to know.

1. It's not (exactly) a joke
The U.S. military is not actually expecting the country to be overrun by zombies. But the work and thought that went into making the plan was very real.

“If you suspend reality for a few minutes, this type of training scenario can actually take a very dry, monotonous topic and turn it into something rather enjoyable,” they wrote in a disclaimer to the report.

2. There are eight types of zombies
The anti-zombie plan covers eight threats. Pathogenic zombies are created by infectious agents; think “World War Z.” Radiation zombies are created by extreme doses of radiation. Evil magic zombies are the result of “occult experimentation.” The report notes that military chaplains may be the best defense against these “EMZs,” and that atheists may be most vulnerable to attack.

Space zombies come from space or originate from extraterrestrial toxins. The report notes, “Asteroids and nuclear space radiation that can convert people into zombies can affect any landmass or population on Earth.” Weaponized zombies are bioengineered by hostile forces. Symbiant-induced zombies are similar to pathogen-induced zombies, but they are created by parasitic life forms and don’t kill their host right away.

Vegetarian zombies eat only plant life. They don’t threaten humans directly, but they could destroy basic food crops. The report notes that instead of moaning, “braaaaains,” vegetarian zombies groan, “graaains.” (And you thought the military didn’t have a sense of humor.)

The final threat noted in the report is chicken zombies.

3. Wait, what? Chicken zombies?
Oh yes. Unlike the other seven potential zombie threats, chicken zombies are “the only proven class of zombie that actually exists,” the report notes. Chicken zombies are old egg-laying hens that are
zombie survival

no longer profitable for poultry farmers to feed and house. The cheapest way to dispose of these birds is to euthanize them and turn them into compost. Farmers gas birds with carbon monoxide to kill them, but survivors are sometimes seen struggling out of piles of dead chickens. A 2006 Associated Press article described the phenomenon and the response from animal-cruelty organizations.

“CZs are simply terrifying to behold and are likely only to make people become vegetarians to protest animal cruelty,” the military report notes. It goes on to add that counter-measures against chicken zombies fall under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Departments of Justice, Homeland Security, Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration.

4. The legal status of zombies

Chicken or otherwise, zombies qualify as neither human nor animal life, the report notes. Thus, the military is free to counterattack without concern for U.S. and international laws that regulate treatment of opposing forces. Given the dire nature of the threat, the country would likely be under martial law during a zombie attack, the plan goes on to note. Because zombies can’t be reasoned with and they don’t fear pain or death, riot-control strategies would do no good. Zombies are also unable to swim, the report helpfully notes.

The only way to effectively kill zombies is assumed to be a shot to the head. The only way to dispose of the corpses safely is by burning.

5. Call in the CDC

An effective response to zombie attack will have to involve the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the plan notes. As there is no known zombie medical cure, the CDC is the best source for pushing back against the pandemic. Fortunately, the CDC is one step ahead of the military on this one: In 2011, the agency wrote a blog post on how to prepare for the zombie apocalypse. The plan was to promote real disaster preparedness, but the post went viral.

Humans infected by the zombie plague may overrun hospitals, the military report notes. Other stalwarts of the medical field might help against a zombie attack, however. Hand sanitizers are marketed as killing 99 percent of germs.

“Although none of these products has ever indicated any efficacy against biohazard level 4 pathogens like Ebola, it is entirely possible that such products could limit or delay the spread of pathogen-based zombieism if properly employed,” the report reads.
Circle the best answer to each of the following questions based on the article “The Pentagon’s Anti-Zombie Plan.”

1. The magazine that uncovered the Pentagon’s anti-zombie plan is:
   a. Military Times
   b. Foreign Policy
   c. Department of Defense
   d. none of the above

2. Why did the military choose to write a joint operation plan about zombies instead of real countries?
   a. zombies are a huge part of pop culture
   b. ‘zombies’ is a code word used for enemy soldiers
   c. the public might think plans involving actual countries are real
   d. the public thinks zombies are a real threat and want to see action taken

3. Which movie does the article cite as an example of pathogenic zombies?
   a. Shaun of the Dead
   b. 28 Days Later
   c. The Walking Dead
   d. World War Z

4. Which of the following is not a type of zombie mentioned in the report?
   a. parasitic zombies
   b. evil magic zombies
   c. space zombies
   d. symbiant-induced zombies

5. Vegetarian zombies are dangerous because:
   a. they eat vegetarians and vegans
   b. they eat food crops that humans need
   c. they eat humans who have recently consumed vegetables
   d. they aren’t actually dangerous at all

6. The only type of zombies that actually exist are:
   a. pathogenic zombies
   b. symbiant-induced zombies
   c. chicken zombies
   d. all of the above

7. Which government agency would not be involved in chicken zombie countermeasures?
   a. U.S. Department of Justice
   b. U.S. Department of the Interior
   c. Food and Drug Administration
   d. Homeland Security

8. Zombies qualify as what type of organism?
   a. human
   b. plant
   c. animal
   d. none of the above

9. Which is not a characteristic of zombies according to the report?
   a. feed on human brains
   b. can’t be reasoned with
   c. do not fear pain or death
   d. are unable to swim

10. What common over-the-counter product could be useful in the event of a zombie outbreak?
    a. febreeze
    b. aluminum foil
    c. hand sanitizer
    d. surgical masks

Comprehension Score: ___________
(number correct x 10)
dream jobs

Dream Jobs That Aren’t So Dreamy
By: Aaron Guerrero. From U.S. News & World Report LP © August 28, 2013. All rights reserved.

On the big screen, some professions capture the imagination through their portrayals of fame and fortune. But perception doesn’t always match reality. Years of difficult training, finding steady work and racking up exorbitant amounts of student debt are some of the drawbacks associated with jobs in the fields of entertainment, law and medicine.

Let’s take a closer look at why some of these jobs aren’t so ideal.

1. Actor/Actress: For a spot in the limelight, no formal education is needed, but it’s becoming more common for stage actors to earn a bachelor’s degree in theater. If you decide to self-train, it may take years before you solidify your acting skills enough to get a casting callback.

Acting can be physically demanding as well. Heat from lights or donning a heavy costume can make for an uncomfortable time on a set. Lastly, be prepared for critics to bash the work you’ve poured your heart and soul into.

What it pays: While the average salary for actors is a healthy $62,000 a year, according to SimplyHired.com, finding steady work can prevent you from building and sustaining a career. Jesse Eisenberg, star of “Zombieland” and “The Social Network” told BlackBook magazine that while becoming an actor is a great profession to pursue for escaping academics, it’s also an “awful business … where every job ends in the procurement of other jobs.”

2. Professional Athlete: Professional athletes wow spectators with their supreme talents. But for those not naturally gifted, it can take years to fully develop athletic skills, either through high school and college athletics or private lessons. And as the Bureau of Labor Statistics points out, the odds of successfully making the leap to professional sports is, to put it charitably, slim. “In major sports, such as baseball and football, only about 1 in 5,000 high school athletes become professionals in these sports,” according to the BLS.

What it pays: If you’re lucky enough to make it, don’t expect Tiger Woods or Lebron James-type money. The average salary for athletes is $45,000, though it varies greatly by industry and experience, among other factors. If you do end up with a salary that runs into the millions, be aware of the trappings that follow it. As ESPN’s 2012 documentary “Broke” tragically showed, poor judgment on matters such as romantic relationships, investments and drugs left formerly rich athletes, including Mike Tyson and Curt Schilling, with empty bank accounts.

3. Musician and Singer: For a band like the Beatles, reaching the pinnacle of their profession didn’t prevent internal strife and bitter feelings in their rocky final years. As a solo act, you may not have the burden of dealing with group politics, but that doesn’t exclude possible entanglements with other strong personalities like controlling producers and record executives who may have a drastically different vision of your career than you do.

What it pays: Salaries differ between the two, with musicians raking in an average of $31,000 and singers taking home $72,000, according
to SimplyHired.com. “Many musicians and singers experience periods of unemployment,” the BLS reports. To simultaneously pursue your passion and make ends meet, prepare to work another job or have a separate business venture on the side.

4. Lawyer: After earning an undergraduate degree, plan on three years of law school, followed by the bar exam, a daunting test on state laws and ethical standards. Despite passing those educational hurdles, lawyers must still keep up with legal developments affecting their practices.

In 2011, 45 states required lawyers to participate in continuing legal education either every one or three years. Also, keep in mind that the market for lawyers is not expected to boom over the next decade. As the BLS notes, job growth for the profession is expected to reach only 6.9 percent by 2020, which is lower than other occupations.

What it pays: Financially, attorneys tend to do well: In 2012, lawyers made an average salary of $130,880, according to the BLS. But you have to factor in the education costs, as 2012 law school students graduated with an average debt of $108,293.

5. Doctor: With a work schedule defined by long and irregular hours, physicians’ personal lives are at the mercy of their careers. If you’re on call, prepare for the possibility of being contacted by a patient during dinner with your family or a night out with your spouse.

And if you plan on becoming a surgeon, you’ll need a strong stomach for the routine sight of blood and an empathetic heart for delivering news about a lost loved one.
If David Tran were a more conventional CEO, he would be a fixture at conferences, a darling of magazine profiles, and a subject of case studies in the Harvard Business Review. Sriracha hot sauce, made by Huy Fong Foods, which Tran founded 33 years ago in Los Angeles, is one of the coolest brands in town. There are entire cookbooks written to celebrate Sriracha's versatility; memorabilia ranging from iPhone covers to t-shirts and all sorts of other swag; a documentary in the works to chronicle its rise; and innumerable imitators. Sriracha sales last year reached some 20 million bottles to the tune of $60 million dollars, percentage sales growth is in the double digits each year, and it does all this without spending a cent on advertising. Yet Tran shuns publicity, professes not to care about profits, hardly knows where his sauces are sold, and probably leaves millions of dollars on the table every year. His dream, Tran tells Quartz, “was never to become a billionaire.” It is “to make enough fresh chili sauce so that everyone who wants Huy Fong can have it. Nothing more.”

He still runs it in much the same way: with his eyes closed. He says he has not once hiked the wholesale price at which he sells Sriracha—a number he won’t share with anyone—no matter that inflation has more than tripled food prices since 1980. He can’t tell you where Sriracha is being sold, because all he knows is that Huy Fong has ten distributors, to whom he has handed off his hot sauce for over 10 years now. “We don’t have a detailed record on where it’s being sold,” Tran admits. Griffin Hammond, who is making the documentary about Sriracha, tells Quartz that as far as he knows, Sriracha is available in the US, Canada and Europe. “But it’s probably sold elsewhere, too,” he conceded. “At the very least, I know that on the bottle there is English, Chinese, Vietnamese, French and Spanish.”

Tran also learned only recently that Sriracha has become a popular ingredient among sushi chefs, who have been using it to spice up spicy...
tuna rolls for years. “I didn’t know until one of my distributors told me,” Tran said. In fact, says Hammond, it’s “almost always the spicy ingredient in spicy tuna rolls these days. It probably makes up a pretty significant portion of their sales.”

Sushi chefs aren’t the only ones. Restaurant chain P.F. Chang, which has 204 branches in the US and worldwide, offers Sriracha-flavored dishes. Chef David Chang (no relation to P.F. Chang’s) has bottles of Sriracha on every countertop of his Momofuku Noodle Bar restaurant in New York. Bon Appétit magazine declared the sauce the ingredient of the year back in 2010, and Cook’s Illustrated called it the best-tasting hot sauce in 2012. Though it didn’t win, Sriracha was one of three new flavors chosen in Lays potato chips’ new flavor contest last year.

Tran is, of course, flattered by all the fandom. He spends time every day reading through bucket-loads of emails, the bulk of which chronicle new and often unthinkable ways in which patrons use his chili sauce. One, he recalled, involved macaroni and cheese, a pairing Tran has never tried—he still almost exclusively eats it on his pho.

Most commercially distributed hot sauces are made with dried chilies to make it easier to harvest, process and bottle the product at scale. McIlhenny, the maker of Tabasco, for example, buys its chilies from producers around the globe. But Sriracha is—and always always has been—made with fresh chilies. It’s what separates it from the competition, says Tran.

His unwillingness to compromise on quality means that the chilies for Sriracha need to be processed within a day of being picked. So Huy Fong’s Rosemead factory sits only an hour away from Underwood Family Farms, which has been the company’s only chili supplier for the past 20 years. Its new plant in Irwindale is only a few miles further away. Finding new land fit for further chili harvesting has proved difficult—the land needs not only to be vast, but also fit for the purpose. “I can’t buy land that’s being used to harvest oranges,” Tran explained. “It’s not right for chilies.”

Chili-driven growth

Demand is such that Huy Fong—which also makes Chili Garlic and Sambal Oelek, two significantly less popular hot sauces—recently purchased a new 650,000-square-foot (60,000 sq m) factory just to process and bottle its Sriracha. It’s quite the upgrade: the current facility produces 3,000 bottles every hour, 24 hours a day and six days a week, and the new one will have two-and-a-half times that capacity. But the company’s biggest obstacle to growth isn’t manufacturing space. It’s raw materials.

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pay attention!

Confident Multitaskers Are the Most Dangerous Behind the Wheel
By: Daisy Grewal. Scientific American © November 5, 2013. All rights reserved.

How good are you at multi-tasking?

The way you answer that question may tell you more than you think. According to recent research, the better people think they are at multitasking, the worse they actually are at it. And the more that you think you are good at it, the more likely you are to multi-task when driving. Maybe the problem of distracted driving has less to do with the widespread use of smartphones and more to do with our inability to recognize our own limits.

A study by David Sanbonmatsu and his colleagues looked at the relationship between people’s beliefs about their own multi-tasking ability and their likelihood of using a cell phone when driving. Importantly, the study also measured people’s actual multi-tasking abilities. The researchers found that people who thought they were good at multi-tasking were actually the worst at it. They were also the most likely to report frequently using their cell phones when driving. This may help explain why warning people about the dangers of cell phone use when driving hasn’t done much to curb the behavior.

The study is another reminder that we are surprisingly poor judges of our own abilities. Research has found that people overestimate their own qualities in a number of areas including intelligence, physical health, and popularity. Furthermore, the worse we are at something, the more likely we may be to judge ourselves as competent at it.

Psychologists David Dunning and Justin Kruger have studied how incompetence, ironically, is often the result of not being able to accurately judge one’s own incompetence. In one study, they found that people who scored the lowest on tests of grammar and logic were the most likely to overestimate their own abilities. The reverse was also true: the more competent people were most likely to underestimate their abilities. And multi-tasking may be just yet another area where incompetence breeds over-confidence.

Talking on a cell phone is one of the more popular, and dangerous, ways to multi-task in the modern world. Some states have enacted laws and fines to deter the behavior, but the issue is not without controversy. People who support the ban of cell phones when driving argue that phones are especially distracting to drivers in a way that other activities are not. Those against widespread bans point out that multi-tasking when driving is nothing new, and the number of fatal accidents from “distracted driving” could be the result of any number of distractions including eating, talking with a fellow passenger, or fiddling with the radio.

In Sanbonmatsu and his colleagues’ study, three hundred participants completed a series of questionnaires that asked about their driving habits, their beliefs about their ability to successfully multi-task, and their tendencies toward impulsivity and thrill-seeking. In addition, participants completed something called the Operation Span task, a test which measures multi-tasking ability. During the test, participants were presented with a series of letters to memorize. In between being presented with the letters, they were asked to complete math problems. A person’s performance on the Operation Span task is based both on the number of letters...
The researchers found that the people most likely to report using their cell phones while driving were the least likely to perform well on the Operation Span task. They were also the most likely to express confidence in their ability to successfully multi-task. (The researchers also found a connection to personality: those most likely to use their cell phones while driving scored highest on measures of impulsivity and thrill-seeking.) An important limitation of the study is that the data are correlational rather than causal in nature, however the study clearly demonstrates that many of us may have a blind spot when it comes to judging our ability to successfully talk on the phone while driving.

Given these results, what might be effective at stopping people from multi-tasking when behind the wheel? Probably not more scare tactics. After all, the problem is not that people don’t recognize the dangers of multi-tasking when driving—rather, the problem is that we only think it’s risky when other people do it.

Maybe the best way to curb the distracting driving would be to make it a socially undesirable thing to do. Psychologist Robert Cialdini, a leading researcher on the topic of persuasion, has shown that we are more likely to do something undesirable when we see a lot of other people do it too. In one famous set of experiments, Cialdini demonstrated how people are more likely to litter in a parking lot that’s already covered with flyers, rather than one that is free of litter. When we hear about the widespread use of cell phone use when driving, we may actually be more likely to do it ourselves.
There it was, virtual gold: a video of a firefighter resuscitating a kitten trapped in a smoky home.

Neetzan Zimmerman, then an editor at Gawker, a news and gossip site, knew it was destined for viral magic. But before he could publish a post about it, his editor made a request. Mr. Zimmerman was to include the epilogue omitted by most every other outlet: The kitten died of smoke inhalation soon after being saved.

For telling the whole story, Mr. Zimmerman paid a price.

“That video did tremendously well for practically everyone who posted it,” he recalled, “except Gawker.”

Why should one sad detail mean the difference between an online megahit and a dud? What makes content go viral?

Social sharing is powerful enough to topple dictatorships and profitable enough to merit multibillion-dollar investments. But scientists are only beginning to explore the psychological motivations that turn a link into “click bait” and propel a piece of content to Internet fame.

Their research may have significant implications for the media and advertising businesses, whose profits hinge on winning the cutthroat race for the attention of Internet users worldwide. Already, some notions of the ingredients in this modern alchemy are beginning to emerge.

If you want to melt the Internet, best to traffic in emotion, researchers have found. The emotional response can be happy or sad, but the more intense it is, the more likely the story is to be passed along.

In a study led by Rosanna Guadagno, a social psychologist at the University of Texas at Dallas, 256 participants much preferred to forward a funny video than one of a man treating his own spider bite. But they were likely to share any video that evoked an intense emotional response, Dr. Guadagno found.

Similarly, Jonah Berger and Katherine Milkman, professors at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, have found that uplifting articles are more likely than disheartening ones to land on the most-emailed list at the New York Times. But even stories evoking rage or other negative, strong emotions are emailed by readers more often than ones that are simply depressing.

“People share things they have strong emotional reactions to, especially strong positive reactions,” Dr. Guadagno said.

Sharing is not just how information ripples across communities; it’s also how emotions are disseminated. Recently, analysts at Facebook, Yale and the University of California, San Diego, reviewed more than a billion posts by Facebook users, and found that when users vented on a rainy day, their friends in other cities posted bleak status updates more frequently than normal.

But positive status updates were even more contagious, prompting upbeat updates from friends at even greater rates. The conclusion: Online, as in real life, feelings can be caught like the flu.

The most shared post at Upworthy, a site for shareable content, is a video about a boy who died of cancer, but not before producing a hit song and performing sold-out shows. The post has racked
up nearly 20 million views, thanks in part to the type of methodically calculated headline that has become the site’s trademark: “This Amazing Kid Got to Enjoy 19 Awesome Years on This Planet. What He Left Behind Is Wondtacular.”

“Even though it was a really sad story, it was a story that gave you something to do with that sadness,” said Upworthy’s analytics czar, Daniel Mintz.

For many people, sharing seems to be a way to process the highs and lows they feel while consuming content online. Mr. Berger, who studied the Times articles, conducted a follow-up study in which he instructed one group of students to jog in place for 60 seconds before going online, while a comparison group rested before logging on.

The runners were more than twice as likely as the sedentary group to email the same article, he found. Why? Because they were already physiologically aroused, Mr. Berger theorizes, and forwarding or liking something serves as a form of release.

“Arousal is an aversive state, so people want to get out of it by sharing,” Mr. Berger said. Misery loves company, and so does any sort of deeply affecting feeling.

But pressing the share button can also be driven by ego. Constructing and refining an online persona has become a daily task for many, experts say; posting a link that evokes laughter or gasps can confer status on the sharer.

No surprise, then, that data recently compiled by Chartbeat, a company that measures online traffic, suggests that people often post articles on Twitter that they haven’t actually read.

“What we found is that there is no relationship whatsoever with the amount that the article is shared and the amount of engaged time and attention given to that article,” said Tony Haile, Chartbeat’s chief executive.

Like a bookshelf stocked with classic tomes that have never been opened, the links that adorn Facebook walls and Twitter accounts are markers of the people we aspire to be. And online media companies are increasingly aware that their role is to package content that will make each member of the masses who disseminates it burnish an online reputation while feeling, oddly, unique.

Mr. Zimmerman, formerly of Gawker, saw it as his job to help the reader feel like “that guy who is always plugged in and tapped into what’s going on.”

“People build their online identities by sharing,” he said. “They want people to think of them a certain way.”
Circle the best answer to each of the following questions based on the article “Why That Video Went Viral.”

1. What two media websites are featured in the article?
   a. Buzzfeed and Upworthy
   b. Mashable and Buzzfeed
   c. Gawker and Upworthy
   d. Upworthy and YouTube

2. One of the best ways to get attention on the internet is to “traffic in . . .”
   a. scientific research
   b. emotion
   c. financial insight
   d. happiness

3. Rosanna Guadagno is a social psychologist at which university?
   a. Harvard University
   b. University of Colorado at Boulder
   c. University of Texas at Dallas
   d. University of California, Berkeley

4. What types of articles are likely to end up on The New York Times most emailed list?
   a. disheartening
   b. eye-opening
   c. health-related
   d. uplifting

5. In one study, when Facebook users vented about a rainy day, their friends in other cities ...
   a. also posted bleak status updates
   b. told them to cheer up
   c. liked their statuses more often
   d. posted more statuses about the weather

6. The most shared post on Upworthy is about:
   a. a heroic cat in California
   b. an inspiring boy who died of cancer
   c. a flash mob in a train station
   d. an outspoken human rights activist

7. What is the job title of Upworthy’s Daniel Mintz?
   a. chief content officer
   b. analytics czar
   c. editor-in-chief
   d. staff writer

8. Experts say that sharing a link does what for the sharer?
   a. feeds ego and confers status on them
   b. allows them to gain followers
   c. affirms their opinions and feelings
   d. creates a separate online persona

9. Data from Chartbeat shows that Twitter users often post articles . . .
   a. that can be read in 30 seconds or less
   b. that contain infographics
   c. that they haven’t actually read
   d. that have a good chance of being retweeted

10. According to the article, people build their online identities by:
    a. posting often
    b. venting their frustrations to the world
    c. uploading a lot of pictures
    d. sharing

**Comprehension Score:** ________
(number correct x 10)
ready to read

Prepare
Are you ready?
• Check your attitudes and beliefs
• Get curious and ask yourself questions
Is your physical space ready?
• Good lighting
• Seated comfortably
• Mind Map started with colored pens
• Uncluttered area

Q-Up
Are you focused?
• Pull Up & Picture
• Breathe & Release

Super-Scan
Are you previewing the reading?
• Move quickly
• Scan pictures, graphs, titles, headers, important words
• Super-scan entire reading

Read
Are you using your visual guide?
• Read the text, line-by-line, using your visual guide

Review
Are you reviewing what you just read?
• Go over your Mind Map out loud or with a friend
• Tell back what you just read

Use this as a reminder of the Quantum Reading Process. Once you practice this sequence a few times, it will be quick and natural. Say this to yourself or out loud as you get ready to read:

Attitude check!

Q-Up!

Pull Up & Picture
Breathe & Release

Open your eyes and use your visual guide to Quantum Read
The powerful reading belief I will use:

The 5 steps of the Quantum Reading process:
## Reading Speed Chart

**Failure Leads to Success: 850 Words**

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**Zombies / Going Viral: 900 Words**

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failure leads to success
Speed: ______ words per minute
Comprehension: ______

zombie survival
Speed: ______ words per minute
Comprehension: ______

going viral
Speed: ______ words per minute
Comprehension: ______
Executive Control Room

SENSORY CORTEX

Relay Station

Emotional Control Center
the high road
the limbic system

Thalamus

Amygdala

Hippocampus
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<th>Peg</th>
<th>Why?</th>
<th>Motion</th>
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<td>sun</td>
<td>there’s only one</td>
<td>arms in half-circle over head</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. eyes</td>
<td>eyes</td>
<td>humans have two</td>
<td>point to your eyes</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. triangle</td>
<td>triangle</td>
<td>three sides and angles</td>
<td>make a triangle with your hands</td>
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<td>4. floor</td>
<td>floor</td>
<td>four sides and rhymes</td>
<td>hands motion above the floor</td>
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<td>5. fingers</td>
<td>fingers</td>
<td>five fingers</td>
<td>wiggle outstretched fingers</td>
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<td>6. sticks</td>
<td>sticks</td>
<td>rhymes with six</td>
<td>use the sticks to play drums</td>
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<td>7. 7-Up</td>
<td>7-Up soda</td>
<td>7-Up soda</td>
<td>gulp a drink down</td>
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<td>8. octopus</td>
<td>octopus</td>
<td>8 tentacles</td>
<td>wave arms like an octopus</td>
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<td>9. lives</td>
<td>lives</td>
<td>cats have nine lives</td>
<td>cat claw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. hen</td>
<td>hen</td>
<td>rhymes with ten looks</td>
<td>flap arms like a chicken</td>
</tr>
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<td>11. goal posts</td>
<td>goal posts</td>
<td>like 11</td>
<td>touchdown signal</td>
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<td>12. eggs</td>
<td>eggs</td>
<td>a dozen eggs</td>
<td>crack egg on your head</td>
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<td>13. Friday</td>
<td>Friday</td>
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<td>15 points in tennis</td>
<td>swinging racket</td>
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<td>sweet</td>
<td>sweet 16</td>
<td>twist hand by cheek</td>
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<td>magazine</td>
<td>Seventeen Magazine</td>
<td>open with palms up throw cap</td>
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<td>graduate when 18</td>
<td>throw cap in the air</td>
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<td>19. screen</td>
<td>screen</td>
<td>19-inch screen</td>
<td>draw outline of screen</td>
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<tr>
<td>20. bucks</td>
<td>bucks</td>
<td>$20 / bucks</td>
<td>slap your back pocket</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q-Up!

PULL UP & PICTURE
BREATHE & RELEASE
prime your mind

CDP
• Cluster & Star
• Mind Map
• Fastwrite

My List
•
•
•

PRIME your MIND

• SuperScan
• Ask ?

• Attitude
• Belief
• Curiosity

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make it stick

Make it Stick

10-24-7-10

Chunk VAK
**VAK Preference Survey**

**Directions:** Select A, B, or C based on the word group or sentence you like the best. Circle the letter of your selection. Then transfer your selections to the VAK Data Sheet. Add the number of selections in each column and multiply by four. Graph your results on the VAK Profile.

1. **A.** Rustling - Hear - Tempo  
   **B.** Texture - Feel - Soft  
   **C.** Illustration - Snapshot - Picture

2. **A.** I get it.  
   **B.** I saw the rows of flowers.  
   **C.** I felt the breeze on my back.

3. **A.** I heard the train whistle.  
   **B.** Chat - Stillness - Tune  
   **C.** Race - Latch - Loosen

4. **A.** Focus - Color - Inspect  
   **B.** Shiny - Reflection - Attractive  
   **C.** Call - Whisper - Bell

5. **A.** Bird’s-eye view  
   **B.** This feels good to me.  
   **C.** This looks good to me.

6. **A.** Nod - Glide - Signal  
   **B.** Keep an eye out.  
   **C.** Give him a hand.

7. **A.** This sounds good to me.  
   **B.** The sunset was beautiful.  
   **C.** It looked good.

8. **A.** Vision - Clear - Glimpse  
   **B.** Mention - Tone - Rhyme  
   **C.** Listen up.

9. **A.** I sense how you feel.  
   **B.** Appears to me  
   **C.** Hold - Trot - Catch

10. **A.** Get in touch with  
    **B.** It felt good.  
    **C.** It was music to my ears.

11. **A.** Lend me an ear.  
    **B.** The view of the ocean  
    **C.** The sound of the waves

12. **A.** The sport was fun.  
    **B.** The sound had an interesting melody.  
    **C.** The painting had beautiful colors.

13. **A.** Grip - Support - Relax  
    **B.** The sound of the instruments  
    **C.** The vibration in the air

14. **A.** Peek - Sight - View  
    **B.** Scoot - Gallop - Skip  
    **C.** Run - Throw - Snap

15. **A.** Nod - Glide - Signal  
    **B.** Appears to me  
    **C.** In touch with...

16. **A.** The feel of the sand  
    **B.** Smooth as silk  
    **C.** Bright as day

17. **A.** Look - Color - Glance  
    **B.** The view of the ocean  
    **C.** Motion - Lukewarm –Sprint

18. **A.** Look as a bell  
    **B.** The sound of the instruments  
    **C.** Let me see this.

19. **A.** Look - Color - Glance  
    **B.** Upbeat - Speak - Sound  
    **C.** Run - Throw - Snap

20. **A.** Let me hear this.  
    **B.** Let me do this.  
    **C.** Let me see this.

21. **A.** The sight on the stage  
    **B.** The sound of the instruments  
    **C.** The vibration in the air

22. **A.** Discuss - Silence - Say  
    **B.** Watch - Shine - Observe  
    **C.** The painting had beautiful colors.

23. **A.** The sound had an interesting melody.  
    **B.** The cloth had a smooth feel.  
    **C.** In touch with...

24. **A.** A glimpse of...

25. **A.** Clear as a bell  
    **B.** Smooth as silk  
    **C.** Bright as day

**Indicator created by John Parks Le Tellier**

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VAK Data Sheet

John Parks Le Tellier

Directions: Transfer your responses to this data sheet by placing a circle around the letter. Count the number of letters circled and enter the total at the bottom of each column. Multiply by four and then graph your results on the VAK Profile.

1. C  A  B
2. B  C  A
3. B  A  C
4. A  B  C
5. A  B  C
6. B  C  A
7. C  A  B
8. A  B  C
9. C  B  A
10. A  C  B
11. B  C  A
12. B  A  C
13. B  C  A
14. C  B  A
15. C  A  B
16. A  C  B
17. B  A  C
18. C  A  B
19. B  C  A
20. A  B  C
21. C  A  B
22. A  B  C
23. B  A  C
24. C  A  B
25. A  B  C

Total 1  Total 2  Total 3

x4=    x4=    x4=

Put the total from the column in this box and multiply by 4 to get the score you will graph on the VAK Profile.
VAK Profile

Visual

Auditory

Kinesthetic
What did you learn about yourself regarding the learning modalities?

Strategies I can use for each VAK learning modality.

Refer back to your VAK profile. Select one of the modalities you were not as strong in and explain how you will use strategies to strengthen that modality.
LIGHTING:
The best lighting for reading/studying is low to moderate levels of natural lighting. The second best choice is full-spectrum fluorescent or incandescent lighting. Indirect lighting is best, since it keeps eye fatigue lowest.

MUSIC:
Low levels of Baroque music have been found to alter physiological states enough to induce relaxed alertness.

SETTING:
Choose a chair that does not promote drowsiness. Avoid couches, beds, and soft chairs—studying is hard enough without the temptation of falling asleep. Don’t forget to change your position and get up and stretch now and then!
1. **Stretch your study time**
   Study your class notes, read relevant book chapters, and quiz yourself for 30 minutes every day for 1–2 weeks before a test. Stretching your study time over multiple days helps you remember better than last-minute cramming.

2. **Rehearse like it’s real**
   When studying for a test, try to simulate the exact conditions of the exam for the last few nights before the test—use a hard chair, hard desk, no interruptions, and no music if your teacher does not use music.

3. **Be prepared**
   Know the format of the test, and also make sure everything you need is ready the night before—pencils, calculator, sweatshirt, ID, healthy snack, watch, etc.

4. **Breakfast works**
   Eat a healthy, light breakfast the day of the test. Include some protein in your meal like yogurt, eggs, fruit, or lean ham. It’s great for energy without making you sluggish.

5. **Jot down the big stuff**
   As soon as you can write on the test, jot down important formulas or facts in the margins so you will have them when you need them.

6. **Skim it**
   Glance through the whole test before you start so you can plan your time. Then take a deep breath and get started.

7. **Easy before hard**
   Answer the easy questions first. This builds confidence and can trigger the recall of answers to questions that follow.

8. **Show your work**
   Write down your reasoning for questions when you do not know the exact answer. Teachers want to know that you are giving thought to your answers instead of just writing down anything that comes to your mind.

9. **Cut to the chase**
   Always write the main point you are making immediately on essay or written test questions. Teachers want to know right away that you know what you are talking about. Then, make sure you use every second of your allotted time for the test.

10. **Feedback leads to success!**
    Always review your test thoroughly when it is handed back to you. You will learn the teacher’s style and maybe even get some correct answers for a future test. And there’s always a chance you will catch an answer that should have been marked correct but was not!
What is it? Write down all the possibilities!
Brainstorm all the possible problems.

The problem we are going to focus on:
Brainstorm all the possible solutions.

The solution we will work toward:
Brainstorm all the possible action steps.

The action plan we will follow:
Creative Thinking Process

1. Understand the _______________
   • consider all challenges
   • choose one to focus on

2. Generate _______________
   • brainstorm ideas
   • choose one with the most potential

3. Plan for _______________
   • consider possible actions
   • formulate a specific plan of action

Be a Slinky Thinker!

Apply divergent and convergent thinking at each step in the process! Real creative thinkers think like a slinky, using both divergent and convergent approaches.

The tendency is to think divergently in the idea generation phase only. A true creative thinker, a *Slinky Thinker*, thinks divergently in all three steps in the process.
Understand the Problem

1. What are the problems or challenges?

   In what ways might I ________________________________?

   In what ways might I ________________________________?

   In what ways might I ________________________________?

   In what ways might I ________________________________?

   In what ways might I ________________________________?

   In what ways might I ________________________________?

2. What problem or challenge will you focus on as partners?

   In what ways might I ________________________________?
3. Think **divergently** about the problem or challenge—what are different ways to look at this problem? Are there “little” problems inside this bigger one, or are there bigger problems underlying this one? List all of the possible related problems.


4. Think **convergently** about the problems or challenges listed above—what is the real problem to focus on? It may be the problem stated in #2, or it may be one of the other possibilities in #3. New problem statement:
Generate Ideas

Write down all of the possible ideas for solutions—think *divergently*!

Of all the ideas above, which seems to be the most promising?
Plan for Action

What are some possible ways to implement your idea?

Decide which action, or combination of actions, is the best plan for you. Write your final plan of action here.
cluster & star

Statistical Facts

Personality Traits

Strengths

Interests
Introduction: ____________________________________
______________________________________________
______________________________________________

Body:_________________________________________
______________________________________________
• ____________________________________________
______________________________________________
• ____________________________________________
______________________________________________
• ____________________________________________
______________________________________________

Conclusion:____________________________________
______________________________________________
______________________________________________
Book Title

By: __________________________________________

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About the Author

Intro

_______________________________________________________________________

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Body__________________________________________________

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_______________________________________________________________________

Conclusion

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_______________________________________________________________________
Think of an important event in your life, then write a poem about the moments just before or just after the event.

Think of a subject that “eats away at you” and write a poem that exaggerates it.

Write about something you love from the perspective of someone who hates it.

Think of something tiny and write about it, making it seem large.

Imagine you are an inanimate object. What is it like?

Write about something that no one else seems ever to have noticed … a time, place or thing, or a common occurrence (like the oil spot on the driveway, water draining in the bathtub, stepping off a bus, etc.)
"I am" Repetition Frame

I am (two special characteristics you have)
I wonder (something you are actually curious about)
I hear (an imaginary sound)
I see (an imaginary sight)
I want (an actual desire)
I am (the first line of the poem repeated)

I pretend (something you actually pretend to do)
I feel (a feeling about something imaginary)
I touch (an imaginary touch)
I worry (something that really bothers you)
I cry (something that makes you very sad)
I am (the first line of the poem repeated)

I understand (something you know is true)
I say (something you believe in)
I dream (something you actually dream about)
I hope (something you actually hope for)
I am (the first line of the poem repeated)

Inspiration (example of "I am" Repetition Frame)

I am inspiring and searching
I wonder where my path may lead me
I hear the practical voices of reason
I see the purpose of controlling wishes
I want to be free
I am inspiring and searching

I pretend to have it all figured out
I feel doubtful and afraid
I touch nothing
I worry I won’t be safe
I cry for the possibilities and people I keep away
I am inspiring and searching

I understand time passing
I say I am ready to fly
I dream that I am
I hope it won’t hurt much to fall
I am inspiring and searching
ABC

The first letter of each line in the poem spells out the topic

SuperCamp
Standing at registration alone,
Unsure about where I am.
Promises made to come here,
Everyone seems weird.
Replace old ideas with new,
Cement has trapped me in the past.
About to face a new start,
Me and my new friends have courage.
Promises I can keep.

Mil Preguntas by Gary G. Gaffney

Each line is a question addressed to the world

Why is hating so easy and loving so hard?
Why is leaving so easy and staying so hard?
Why seek integrity when celebrity is enough?
Why seek depth when superficiality is enough?
Why seek?
Is being a hero worth the effort?

You, Me, Them, Us, You, Me Frame

Another pattern that a lot of different poems can fit into

You – So committed, so present, so tuned in to who I am. I’m scared that you won’t be there when I change.

Me – Unclear, confused, struggling between what is really going on in me and what needs to happen to strengthen our relationship.

Them – Judging, questioning, watching—or that’s what I imagine.

Us – To start fresh with you and stay committed. Can we?

You – Solid and sure foundations for the future.

Me – Wanting it all, counting the cost, again.