

Article One: Myths and Truths

Dispelling the Myths and Revealing the Truths How Young People Achieve Success In Life – *from an innovative study of 100 successful world famous people when they were young.*

Greetings!

I'm Peter Stephenson, online career counselor and Founder of uSucceed in Life.

In my research, I have studied the published biographies of 100 successful world famous people. They became successful in the fields of business, government, entertainment, sport and other occupations. I had a particular focus, namely, what were they doing as young people and were there any particular similarities or patterns to which their success in life could be attributed?

You can access their bios free of charge at www.usucceedinlife.com/famous-people

So now for the "Myths and Truths" based on my study of 100 successful world famous people. There are four key areas I would like to explore.

Number 1: Growth Dynamics

Growth Dynamics are the "moving parts" of a young person's personal growth, which include:

- How and when you plan for success in your life based on your definition of success;
- How you are impacted by family influence, which can be positive and supportive, or negative and potentially destructive;
- How you develop educationally, be this through conventional or specialised personal development, or through broad life experience; and
- How and when you define and pursue those interests and abilities about which you are most passionate.

Here are some "Myths and Truths" about Growth Dynamics:

Myth: success in life mainly comes about through being in the right place at the right time, i.e. through good luck.

Truth: success in life, usually comes about through defining what this means to you, and pursuing it when still quite young.

Myth: successful people leave the nest and strike out on their own early.

Truth: 65% of successful people actually benefit from lasting positive family influence, which guides them well into their success trajectory.

Myth: to be successful you require advanced tertiary qualifications, such as a Masters Degree.

Truth: while such qualifications can certainly help, 48% of successful people opt out of conventional broad-based educational development when still quite young.

Myth: most successful people have to work hard at things they don't necessarily enjoy doing.

Truth: all successful people define and pursue those interests about which they are most passionate, which become the focus of their career, and 50% of them do this when still quite young.

Number 2: Work Style

A significant part of success in life relates to how effective people are in the work setting. This depends on:

- The strength of your achievement orientation, or your will to succeed;
- The degree of your preparedness to try out new things and take risks; and
- Your interpersonal relationships in the educational or work setting.

Here are some "Myths and Truths" about Work Style:

Myth: to succeed in life you have to be a "driven self starter"

Truth: this is only the case in 36% of successful people - the remaining 64% are more measured in their ambitions.

Myth: to succeed in life you have to be a big risk taker... an "entrepreneur".

Truth: although this can be the case, 72% of successful people are more considered in their risk-taking than out-and-out entrepreneurs.

Myth: to succeed in life you have to be a great leader.

Truth: only 41% of successful people excel at leading and managing. However, 59% excel as influencers or team players.

Number 3: Personal Identity

Who you are in relation to others seeing you as a product, label or brand depends upon:

- Your inner-most being - this drives your attitude towards life and your resultant behavior;
- Your intelligence, both in terms of raw brain-power or intellect and your capacity to understand and engage with other individuals; and
- Your strength of character and how differentiated you are from others.

Here are some "Myths and Truths" about Personal Identity:

Myth: successful people put themselves first and are usually self-centred.

Truth: 60% of successful people are considerate of others, and are principled and compassionate.

Myth: you have to have a really high level IQ to become successful.

Truth: 89% of successful people in fact have a more modest level of intelligence (albeit above-average), and/or a high level of ability in social engagement.

Myth: all successful people have "one-of-a-kind", idiosyncratic and forceful personalities.

Truth: while some successful people may well be like this, the personalities of 58% of successful people are more tempered, yet they still stand out from the crowd.

How To Make It Happen!

The uSucceed In Life website addresses all of these important success factors comprehensively in the form of a Journey of self-reflection and discovery. In effect, it provides a break-through, short online course for young people seeking success. Go to www.usucceedinlife.com/career-advice for more information.

For parents, close friends or career counselors seeking to further help young people develop successfully, please visit or refer others to the uSucceed Research Report and Guide at www.usucceedinlife.com/career-development.

I look forward to your thoughts and comments.

Thanks and best regards, Peter.

Number 4: Development Trajectory

The pursuit of success in life may have its highs and lows, be they periods of:

1. Misfortune and recovery, creating great areas of pain followed by a rebound into some form of prosperity; or
2. Peaks and troughs which, although less steep and deep than misfortune and recovery, nevertheless result in you experiencing highs and lows as you progress towards success in life.

If you experience either of the above, the question is "Can I do anything to hasten my ability to get out of the lows and how can I control my development trajectory?"

Also, your journey through to success in life will experience predictable, yet not necessarily sequential stages – survival; well-being; belonging; self-respect; and self-fulfillment (based on Maslow's Theory of Human Motivation).

Here are some "Myths and Truths" about Development Trajectory:

Myth: successful people have a clear run and really don't usually experience highs and lows to any great degree.

Truth: 59% of successful people experience peaks and troughs and 41% experience misfortune and recovery.

Myth: when experiencing a low, successful people bide their time and wait for their luck to change.

Truth: when experiencing a low, successful people pursue lucky breaks and make their own luck.

Myth: most successful people can't control their development trajectory and believe success arrives when it's ready.

Truth: most successful people know a lot about the stages of personal development and the attainment of success in life. They also understand this and plan their progress accordingly.