

Directions sent online: Please read the following and respond with a short thought. This is worth extra credit points!

One of the most difficult things to do is to begin. Have you ever wanted to do something, but you were so tired that you did not begin? This is a common human challenge. It is said that Van Gogh, the great and troubled artist, was mesmerized by a blank canvas. It said to him you can do nothing, but he began and created some of the world's greatest art.

There is power in accomplishment, but perhaps the true power is in beginning, for if you just take one step you will begin to find the energy and inner resources to reach your destination. Circumstance, other people, memories, and a blank canvas may declare you can do nothing, but a simple beginning will prove that this is not so.

Responses

David Gorgani:

I can't tell you how much I agree with this message. Every time I have a class project of any sort, I have trouble getting started. An analogy I like to make is that of a car: It takes a lot of gas to get your car started, and to get your car moving, but once the motion has been created, there is almost no gas needed; you're just cruising. A real example is this: Right now I should be working on a scholarship essay (yeah that's right, 10:45 PM on Sunday) and I can't get started. I'm just sitting here looking at a blank screen and checking my email every five minutes. But I know that once I get it started, once I get my mind moving, it will be smooth sailing. Once I know what to write, I have no trouble writing. Isn't that always how it is? Once I know how to do a project, I have no problem doing it. Once the plans are set, the project is already under way.

Caitlin Sterling:

I agree that the scariest thing to do is begin a project. At the beginning, one's goals can look huge and unattainable. It is those that actually have the courage to begin that are able to succeed in life, and follow everything through to the end.

Everyone in the world has a dream, but few are able to actually follow it through, due to the mesmerizing "blank canvas". I think that what makes those who achieve their goals succeed, is that they don't think of their dreams as huge projects, but as many small ones that can be carried out in little steps. That is what we must do in leadership. When we begin a big project like a rally or dance, we should start out working on the individual parts of the project, instead of the project itself.

Casie Stocking:

I think this is extremely true because we miss a lot of things by discouraging ourselves. I believe that beginning is the hardest thing because it means that you believe in yourself that you can do it. I always wonder, if I had made different choices in my life, where I would be now?

Vishakha Patel

The article related to me in terms of ASB and life. In ASB, you not only have to set out and accomplish great events as well as doing all the paperwork for it. For me doing council work is not that hard because I have four to five people behind me. When I have to do commissioner work, it is much more pressure and stress because I have certain responsibilities that I have to take care of no matter what. When you have a new plan and have to get it started you have so many ideas, but no where to start. In life I have certain experiences that can come to mind before others. The last experience I had was a fight I had with one of my closest friends. I decided to start something, I decide to apologize first. Starting anything is hard, but there is no easy way to do it.

Claire Fitzgerald

I agree with this passage, that the beginning is the most difficult part of the process. The beginning is also the most important, because one needs a foundation in which they can build the rest of their plans and ideas upon. Sometimes you just need to jump into the beginning, because this will make the rest of the project much easier. Once the beginning has begun, the rest of the project will flow, and be completed easier.

Elizabeth Do

The paragraph about the importance of just beginning can be related to ASB and life in many ways. For example, if there is a project that you are very interested in doing, but you don't have all of the details fully specified, it is better that you at least start at the beginning stages of it instead of waiting and putting it off. Once you start the project, you can collect ideas and input from other people in ASB and in school that can help you make project improvements and finish it completely and successfully. This is also true in life. If you want to reach a goal of yours but are too scared or too self-doubtful, you should at least try to get started or you might regret it later on. Basically, don't skip up an opportunity to do something really great just because of fear, laziness, or hesitation.

Vinney Le

This article relates to Leadership because in Leadership Class, the beginning phase of a project can be the most difficult. We have to plan the project out, go through every step we need to do, and make sure each step is completed correctly and in a timely order. And once we have the beginning stuff done, the rest of the project runs smoothly because we know what to do, and each step accomplished is another step towards our goals.

Margot Bookspan

Hi Ms. Bader hope that you conference is going well. I think this is the absolute truth. Many times I feel like there is no possible way I can go to the gym or do my homework or even call someone. The hardest part is always getting started. But once I begin whatever I am doing it's much easier to finish. I think as long as you can motivate yourself to begin a project you have already won half the battle. Beginning is the first step in success and after that it is all downhill. Thanks for the message.

Ed White

I think that message is a very good one. For example the project you have assigned to us which is to create a mock ASB event. All our projects are like the blank canvases, they have extreme potential but if they are not actually started they are worth nothing. Van Gough's blank canvas had high potential, just like the artist, our events have great potential too. However, if not begun, they are worth nothing.