Failure is equivalent to quitting

“The day you quit school, you condemn yourself to a future of poverty.” - Jamie Escalante

Jamie Escalante’s quote “The day you quit school, you condemn yourself to a future of poverty,” is a wise quote at its finest. Looking deeper into the maxim, there is more to it than what Jamie put in. The main goal of the maxim was to teach younger generations not to quit, teaching that generation why school is important, along with teaching us to want more than poverty.

Many wise people have said quitting will get you nowhere, but it does get you somewhere. It brings you closer to failure. Gena Showalter one said, “Giving up is the only sure way to fail (Gena Showalter).” This quote goes along with Jamie’s maxim because Gena is telling us that when you give up you fail. Jamie is explaining that if you give up on school, you are going to fail life. According to the article The Psychology behind giving up, giving up can also be a strength. The article states “...you can view your ability to recognize when it’s time to quit as a strength not a weakness (Walden University).” Sometimes you may be holding onto something that is unhealthy for you whether it be a relationship with a person such as an ex-boyfriend or an item containing materials that make you feel anxious such as social media. In these certain situations, giving up is the best thing to do. But is giving up worth it in healthy circumstances, or is it best to push through? According to the article ‘My Kid Wants to Drop Out of School’, quitting school is way harder than some may think and you have to be at least 15 to do so with parent permission. In fact it’s almost harder to drop out of school and live an “easy life” than it is to attend school and learn numerous things to help lead into the future.

According to the article from the ‘National Dropout Prevention Center’, ‘Why Students Drop Out’, Most students drop out because they feel like they are under too much pressure. Some other reasons may be that they thought it would be easier, were failing in school, didn’t get along with teachers or peers, or they didn’t feel safe along with many other reasons. For this reason it is important that your child is put in the correct school and not every school works for everyone. Some students prefer small schools where they can get one on one help with the teacher, some prefer big, and some prefer to do schooling online just to get it over with and start a career. Either way school is very important and it is best to fight for anyway to get the best education for everyone. According to the article ‘The Importance of School Education in Child Development’, “School is the foremost fountain of knowledge children are exposed to (Deepika Sharma).” School is very important for gaining knowledge and teachers have chosen the career of teaching just because they care about their students and are looking for them to succeed in life. They are trained to teach you based on what they learned in college using the best teaching methods they can in which you can only get this kind of education from school.

Jamie Escalante also wrote the maxim to give us an understanding of the effects dropping out of school. Every cause has an affect and the effect of dropping out of school is a life of poverty. This by far isn’t always true for there are many people who drop out to go to college and have a full plan to continue to get their high school diploma at a college, but for those who don’t have a plan, poverty is a destined future. Now before explaining why poverty is bad, what is poverty? According to Merriam Webster, poverty is “the state of one who lacks a usual or socially acceptable amount of money or material possessions (Webster).” In simple words being in poverty is having a lack of money. The only way to legally make money is to work for it, but working at a fast food restaurant is not enough to bring a person out of poverty. Without a highschool diploma, what jobs can you really get? Well you can be a receptionist and only make
about ten dollars an hour. Or you can be an usher at your local theatre and make 9 dollars an hour. Of course the most popular would be working in the fast food industries. Now surely it’s a great job to start off with, but once you graduate highschool, wouldn’t it be better to own a franchise making more than 200,000 dollars a year. You may be dreading going into a future of work, but why can’t it be fun. Don’t just choose a job that you dislike because it is easier to strive to go further. In the article ‘Why So Many Americans Hate Their Jobs,’ Anna Robaton explains how 85% of Amerians hate their jobs because all of their coworkers are unhappy as well as their bosses. It’s a better idea to choose the job that best fits you to stay away from quitting your job and to not affect the workplace as if everyone chose the job they enjoyed, life would work way more smoothly and that’s what makes humans so unique.

Subsequently, dropping out of highschool should not be an option and is best explained in Jamie Escalante maxime “The day you quit school, you condemn yourself to a future of poverty” shows those affected by the quote that quitting is not an option for school is very important and without is you are destined for poverty. Yes work can be very boring at times, but it definitely pays off in the end and once you are retired you will thank yourself for getting through high school.

Work Cited


“List of Jobs That Don’t Require a High School or GED Diploma.” Best GED Classes, 15 Apr. 2020, bestgedclasses.org/jobs-without-diploma-or-ged/.
