

STEPPING STONES FOR SUCCESS

1. BUILD ON YOUR OPEN-MINDEDNESS

A truly educated person learns to consider a person's character rather than the color of one's skin, or one's religion, or caste, or ethnic background. As you become more open-minded, you will begin to work on understanding before judging, reasoning before reacting, and delving deeper before condemning. As you build on your best character, you strive hard to develop a habit of practicing open-mindedness.

2. BUILD ON YOUR COMPETENCE

You have already established a certain level of competence or you would not be here. Now is the time to push yourself to learn more than you ever have before. Your future depends on the knowledge you are gaining today. Settling for mediocrity can be the death of the search for your greatest self. Work to acquire knowledge about the world, other cultures, events that impact and shape humanity, and most importantly, work hard to understand yourself and your place in the world.

3. BUILD ON YOUR ABILITY TO QUESTION

It has been said, "Sometimes, the question is more important than the answer." As you move through the coming months and years, do not be afraid to ask questions. Questioning is the first step in becoming a critical and logical thinker. If you ask the right questions and listen, you will learn.

4. BUILD ON YOUR SUPPORTIVE NATURE

Education is more important than facts and figures. It involves learning how to support others in the world around you learning how to be a member of a larger community than your own. An ancient Hindu proverb may help you in building on your best supportive nature: "Help thy brother's boat across and lo, Thine own has reached the shore."

5. BUILD ON YOUR ABILITY TO GIVE

As you build on your best, you will have more to give than ever before. Writer and educator Leo Buscaglia once said that you want to make yourself the most creative, educated, wonderful, caring person in the world so that you can give it away. Strive hard to find a need in the world and devote your best to it. It is a strange but true phenomenon—the more you give, the more you get.

6. BUILD ON YOUR NEED TO BE CHALLENGED

The easy road will never lead to greatness or to your best. Winston Churchill said, "It is from adversity that we gain greatness." When you are struggling, remember that you are getting stronger. You are preparing for becoming the person you were meant to be. As you register for classes, search for professors, volunteer for projects, and explore internships, choose those that will challenge you, make you stretch, and ultimately lead you to another level in the search to be your best.

7. BUILD ON YOUR CREATIVITY

In building on your best, do not forget to let your creativity shine. You may say that you are not a "creative person," but that would be an unfair statement. Everyone has creative genius on some level. By allowing

yourself to wander, dream, explore, and yes, even fail, your creativity will develop and soar. Try new ideas, experience new adventures, engage in activities with new people. Build your creativity.

8. BUILD ON YOUR ABILITY TO BALANCE

No one thing will ever bring you joy, peace, or prosperity. Try to include family, friends, cultural events, social activities, work, and service in your daily life. Seek balance between work and play. You will never be happy unless there is a sense of balance in your life. Harmony and balance in life, help you to be your best.

9. BUILD ON YOUR PROSPERITY

While money will not make you happy, you need a certain amount to take care of yourself and your family. Your definition of success may or may not involve money and material possessions. It is not a sin, however, to pursue financial success. Prosperity can provide you with the opportunity to give back to your community, your family, and fellow citizens in need. Money, used properly, can bring great happiness if you share it with others.

10. BUILD ON YOUR SUCCESS

You need to define exactly what success means to you, so you know what you are working towards. Whatever success is for you, pursue it with all the passion and energy you have. Set your goals high and work hard to create a life that you can ultimately look back on with pride, satisfaction, and joy and be able to say, "I did my best. I have no regrets."

11. BUILD ON YOUR ABILITY TO BE JUST AND FAIR

Celebrated Scottish thinker Thomas Carlyle has said, "The man of life upright has a guiltless heart, free from all dishonest deeds of thought of vanity". The road of being upright may be full of hurdles but it will make you stand tall when others are falling. Whatever decisions you take, whatever judgments you make be sure that you have listened to the 'inner voice' It's my advice that do not judge anything by face value, be sure to explore every aspect of any problem, any situation, and reach to a conclusion only after this. When you wake up in the morning you should be able to see yourself with pride and dignity.