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Living a Life of Significance

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“What Is a Life of Significance?”

There are endless ways to live a life of significance. What it means and how to achieve it depends on the individual. Every person is unique and differs on what makes them happy and satisfied in life. You can discover what is important and then focus on the best ways for you to achieve a life with purpose. In my opinion, several ways to do this are to find a passion, try your hardest to reach your full potential, leave an impact on other people’s lives, and continuously improve and work on yourself.

Finding what you truly love doing will help you realize your purpose in life. Whether your passion is a job, hobby, or a relationship, doing what you love will cause you to be much happier and more content with your life. A lot of people do not know what their passion is from a young age, but experimenting and trying many different paths will help in finding what feels right. No one should go into a career or relationship with the mindset that it is what they are supposed to do. You should love what you are doing and look forward to each day because you are doing it. Larry Smith spoke on a Ted Talk in which he explains how important it is to find a goal in life. He points out that most people will not have a great career because they do not try to find their passion. He also says that most people are afraid to pursue their passion and will make excuses. After listening to the video, I feel that this is true for most people. Instead of making excuses, you should find what you love to do and what interests you. This will lead to, not only a successful and purposeful life, but a life that you enjoy.

Surrounding yourself with the people you love and are passionate about will make your life feel so much more complete. Maintaining relationships that are supportive, healthy, and dependable creates comfort and stability. Find the people that bring out the best in you. I have found that when I am around people that have a negative outlook on life, I tend to feel the same way. I do best when I surround myself with people who are positive, happy, and caring. When you are around the people who fit best with your personality, you will find passion in these relationships.

Some of the most successful people in this world have not solely gotten where they are because of luck. They have reached their full potential because they worked extremely hard to do so. Focusing on trying as hard as you can and doing everything at 100 percent will help you to be the best person that you can be. You should avoid doing anything halfway, because eventually, you will become lazy and unproductive. Also, being involved and well-rounded is a great way to reach your full potential. An example of a person who lived their life in this way is Neil DeGrasse Tyson. He found his passion, astrophysics, and embraced it. He learned everything he could about astrophysics and created countless opportunities for himself that eventually led him to a successful career that he loves. If everyone had the mindset that they are capable of reaching their goals and dreams, most lives would be more enjoyable and pleasurable. As a student at Birmingham-Southern, I feel that this college strives to set students up for success and to help them reach their full potential inside and outside of the classroom. We are so lucky to have this opportunity to become hard-working, intelligent, and well-rounded people.

Making an impact on people’s lives is crucial to finding significance. A person does not have to be famous or a well-known figure to impact others. A simple kind gesture can help turn a person’s day around. Being kind to the people around you has a major impact on how others see you and how you see yourself. You should go out of your way to make the people around you feel appreciated and loved. Someone once told me that people should always feel better about themselves after being around me. I have always tried to live by this. All it takes is being interested in the person, giving compliments, smiling, and being friendly, and you can make a person’s day so much better. Not only does this make the people around you happier, but you will feel better about yourself, too. I also have always told myself to see from other people’s perspectives. Everyone has bad days, and you never know what the people around you are going through. Reaching out with kindness, even if someone is not as kind to you, can make a huge difference. You will also earn more respect from others by treating people nicely.

Impacting another person can also be done by helping them when they need it. You can see when other people are struggling and reaching out to them to offer help can make a huge difference. Whether you do this by being there for someone to talk to during hard times, making donations to charity, or simply helping someone carry bags that are too heavy, you can impact other lives everyday. It is easy to get rapped up in our own lives, but if you help the people around you more, you will notice that you will become a much better person.

Throughout life, you have to continuously improve yourself. Figuring out who you want to be and constantly working on yourself will cause you to grow and live how you personally envision a significant life. You will develop into a better, wiser person through experiences, watching the people around you, and learning and educating yourself. Even by watching movies, reading, and listening to the people around you, you can grow into a much more intelligent person.

Making mistakes is inevitable. However, once you make mistakes, you can learn from them. This will help you to not repeat the same regret twice and can help you grow wiser. Whether the mistake is large and life-changing or small and insignificant, they help you grow and challenge you to become a better person. As long as you are willing to learn, you can constantly shape yourself and your life to become a kind, generous, intelligent person. After making a mistake, it can be easy to get down or upset, but having a positive outlook and moving forward will help you grow and be more productive. Everyday, people make a mistake and think about all the possible reasons it could have been prevented, but stressing over what has already happened is pointless. You have to move on with your life and focus on lifting yourself up instead of feeling down on yourself.

Today, it especially feels like we cannot make any mistakes due to social media and the internet. When we do make a mistake, everyone knows. However, a lot of people are forgiving and do not only label us based off of our past mistakes. I think of the countless examples of politicians, movie stars, and people in the public eye that have gotten so much criticism from the media, but they make a major comeback and gain the public’s appreciation again.

No one is perfect. Each person is unique in what motivates them and makes them happy, bored, upset, and excited. Discovering your passion and what you are capable of accomplishing in life may take time for some people, but others may know exactly what they want from a young age. Everyone takes different amounts of time to figure out who they are and who they want to be. You have to realize this about yourself and never give up on fulfilling your goals that you set for your life. Each person has unique values, traits, and opinions, so we each have to discover our own way to live a life of significance.