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Laws of Life Essay Topic: "Success feeds on itself and creates more success"

Oprah Winfrey, the richest African American woman of the twentieth century, speaks openly about her life which can be easily coined, "From rags to riches." In her autobiography, she speaks of being raised in poverty and shares how, at every juncture of success in her life, she found an opportunity to do something greater, therefore experiencing more success. This is because success feeds on itself and creates more success. When one experiences success, it creates a feeling of satisfaction and influences the way we move forward. This development comes with greater confidence, and the desire to have the thrill that success brings repeated, becomes undeniable. Hence, the truth of this experience can be seen in various aspects of our lives, especially academically, corporately and nationally.

It is often been said that "education is the key to success" and I believe that success is the key to continuous education. By this I mean that success in academics can become addictive and thereby lead to greater success. In my academic journey I have found that previous successes were the catalyst for my present success, and makes me look forward to future academic successes. When I was a toddler, I was a "late bloomer" and so my parents believed that I was academically challenged. They were waiting for me to get older to be evaluated but in the meantime, sent me to speech therapy. They say that once I began speaking I never stopped. My confidence in speaking grew as my speech became clearer and today I enjoy public speaking. I can remember my teachers working with me and encouraging me, and I can definitely remember the first time that I was acknowledged in an assembly for doing well. After this assembly, I knew that this was what I always wanted. My first goal was to be on the Honor Roll, then the Dean's List, followed by the Vice Principal's list. Presently, I am on the Principal's List but as a Senior in High School, my goals have shifted to another aspect of success – ensuring that along with these excellent grades, I am well rounded so that I can attain the best scholarship for college. Yes, the more success I experience academically, the higher I believe I can go.

Although I am not employed as yet, I have the finest example of how success feeds on itself and creates more success. My father was not amongst the smartest in high school, and as a matter of fact, due to poverty, a sick mother and an absent father, the odds were stacked against him. He graduated without any accolades but eventually landed a job at one of the largest hotels in the Bahamas. He started as a Valet Parker and was quickly promoted. That began a chain of promotions that continued until he resigned many years later, as Vice President of Operations. He shares this testimony often and tells of how, at every level, he had a yearning to get to a higher level. He says that his success was not just vertical, but horizontal, thus this gave him the desire to venture out and start his own business.

Finally, as a proud Bahamian, it is easy to see how the success that The Bahamas is experiencing as a nation, is because of previous successes. Just a few days ago we celebrated Majority Rule Day. We recognized some of the events that lead to this milestone like the Burma Road Riot where laborers wanted equal pay for equal work, no matter their color. Also, The Suffrage Movement where women demonstrated publicly for the right to vote, and even Black Tuesday when in the House of Assembly Sir Lynden Pindling threw the mace outside of the

window saying, "This is the symbol of authority and authority on this island belongs to the people and the people are outside." The success of Majority Rule Day, gave Bahamians the encouragement to strive for further success and on July 10, 1973, the Bahamas attained independence from British rule. Since those successes we have attained many other successes that have made us the country we are today. We have had economic successes as we remain a popular tourist destination with Tourism, educational successes with the College of the Bahamas attaining university status; and lastly in the area of health as our government clinics and hospitals are some of the best healthcare facilities in this region.

In conclusion, Sir John Templeton, author of *Discovering The Laws of Life* once said, "Success is a process of continually seeking answers to new questions." When the questions or challenges life presents are successfully answered, new and more advanced questions and challenges are presented, and as we continue this process we advance. If we are just answering the same questions or challenges we will find ourselves stuck. Whether we successfully answer life's questions in academics, the corporate world, or in our nation, the success we experience feeds on itself and causes even more success.