

## Assignment I: Narrative / Essay Writing

(suggested time—70 minutes)

### Assignment

Write either a narrative or an essay about **the importance of striving to achieve personal goals**. You may write about yourself or other people, real or fictional. You may set your writing in the past, present, or future.

### Ideas

The following material may give you ideas for your writing. **You do not have to refer directly to any of it.** Consider the knowledge and experience you have gained from reading, listening, viewing, discussing, thinking, or imagining.



It must be borne in mind that the tragedy in life doesn't lie in not reaching your goal. The tragedy lies in having no goal to reach.

*Benjamin E. Mays*



The heights by great men reached and kept  
Were not attained by sudden flight,  
But they, while their companions slept,  
Were toiling upward in the night.

*Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

Mays, Benjamin E. *Benjamin E. Mays National Memorial*. Morehouse College. [https://www.morehouse.edu/about/chapel/mays\\_wisdom.html](https://www.morehouse.edu/about/chapel/mays_wisdom.html).  
Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth. "The Ladder of St. Augustine." In *Birds of Passage*. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Company, 1886.

Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent. The slogan “Press On” has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race.

*Calvin Coolidge*

Three more months of saving and I can get the system I want.



In recognition of your service to the community, we would like to present you with this award.



Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma — which is living with the results of other people's thinking. Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition. They somehow already know what you truly want to become. Everything else is secondary.

*Steve Jobs*

Coolidge, Calvin. <http://bartleby.com/73/1355.html>.

Jobs, Steve. “‘You've Got to Find What You Love,’ Jobs Says.” *Stanford Report*, June 14, 2005. Stanford University News. <http://news.stanford.edu/news/2005/june15/jobs-061505.html>.

When writing, be sure to

- **consider your audience**
- **focus on your purpose and point of view**
- **organize your thoughts** appropriately in sentences and paragraphs
- **use vocabulary** that is interesting and effective
- **edit your work** directly on your writing
- **budget your time**