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### Finding the Good in Failure

The word *failure* is commonly defined as a lack of success or as the omission of occurrence or performance. It is essentially a part of life and necessary for developing someone's character. Society has effectively portrayed the term *failure* with a distressing and almost painful connotation; however, we learn more from failure than success, and defeat builds character. The dictionary definition of *failure* does not expand on the term by giving a more extensive explanation of the feeling and effects of this defeat. Although the official definition does not say so, in my opinion, failure is a good thing because it shows us where we should not be, allows us to become more prepared, and allows for a bittersweet victory.

First of all, failure is defined as a positive thing because lack of success allows us to evaluate where we should not be. When we understand our defeat, we are more susceptible to change; it shows us where we should not be and exactly where we need to be to succeed.

Failure is also a good thing because it allows us to become more prepared for the next attempt. For example, in my first semester of college, I experienced a form of academic failure on my second chemistry exam. After receiving a bad grade, I experienced the feeling of failure and defeat and thought of this feeling as a negative thing. Like others in similar moments of failure, I believed the worst rather than seeing this failure as a way to improve myself. Then after experiencing failure on my exam, I prepared longer and studied the course material more diligently. This action allowed me to create better habits because I applied myself to something I

was passionate about.

Lastly, failure is a good thing because it represents something missing and needing to be fulfilled; it is defined as defeat with potential for success and improvements. After failing my chemistry exam, I applied myself to relearning the material and understanding the subjects I was learning. The failure on my second exam resulted in a bittersweet victory on my third exam of the semester. Former professional basketball player Michael Jordan said, "I can accept failure, everyone fails at something. But I can't accept not trying." This quote reiterates the point that failure is not the end, especially when we know how to accept failure for what it really is.

When failure occurs, we go through a difficult time, but failure helps us to develop a deeper understanding of life. Most people perceive failure to be a negative thing, but it is exactly the opposite. In my opinion, failure is a positive thing because it shows us where we should not be, allows us to return more prepared, and allows for a bittersweet victory.