

# IDEAS 9

**International Online Teachers Society  
Debate  
Educational Materials For  
Advance and Upper Intermediate  
Students**



**International Online Teachers Society  
Publishing Committee**



## CONTENTS

### THE 9TH INTERNATIONAL ONLINE TEACHERS SOCIETY ESSAY CONTEST

Success | Billionaire-A Song Parallelization | Kathlyn Q. Barrozo | 2

Success | The Many Facets Of Success | Marian Baltazar | 3



## BILLIONAIRE-A SONG PARALLELIZATION

Kathlyn Q. Barrozo  
Class of 1991  
University of Santo Tomas  
B.S. Medical Technology

The Travie McCoy-Bruno Mars song collaboration, “Billionaire”, is a fitting song to be analyzed in connection to success—and its outrageous connotations. The opening line: I want to be a billionaire so f\*\*\*ing bad is, in this writer’s humble opinion, an appropriate one-line summary of how badly people nowadays want to become increasingly wealthy because MONEY is easily equitable to SUCCESS. But is it, really?

Well, I’d be a real hypocrite if I said I didn’t subscribe to the same idea. We wear ourselves out practically every day in this dog-eat-dog world to come out top dog, higher echelon material, head honcho, the boss’ favorite employee. That’s because the distinction is parallel to fame, in the workplace at least, and fortune (PROMOTION, PROMOTION, PROMOTION). But trying to stay at the top of your game all the time can be draining, too. And competition gets so fierce every day that it seems you’ve got your work cut out for you. Pretty hard, huh?

“I want to be on the cover of Forbes’ magazine...” Forbes’ magazine regularly comes out with a list of the world’s wealthiest, and their success stories are highlighted, lauded, written about so glowingly, one gets to think if those wealthy people are for real. Well, they are real, ladies and gentlemen, and they got to those posts by dint of hard work, tons of patience, bolstered by heavenly supplications, and with courage, to boot.

“...smiling next to Oprah and the Queen”... Who wouldn’t want to be able to do that? And not just for the just-caught-Oprah and the Queen-passing-by, had-my-camera, took-a-self-photo type of thing. We all want, no wish, to really have a snapshot of ourselves on a pose-for-the-camera shot with these famous people. Why? Fame, people, fame. It’s simply sweet and addictive, a basic measuring parameter of success. Add to that, “...oh every time I close my eyes, I see my name in shining lights...” Yep, becoming successful in itself is such an undoubtedly powerful drug.

Will Rodgers once said, “You might be on the right track but if you don’t move on, you’ll get hit by a train”. Simply put, even if one starts on the road to success, but does not do his best to follow every small success through to get better at his game, he will get run over by others who are also on the same track. We should never rest on our laurels, we should continuously work on honing ourselves and further working on our skills to achieve even bigger successes. In the process, we must remember never to use other people for our own selfish ends. Be at peace with everybody, as those people we meet on the way up are bound to be the same people we shall meet on the way down.

And what is the other important ingredient/s? A genuine trust in the Lord plus a generous helping of humility. Even Bruno Mars would attest to that.

### Questions for Discussion:

1. According to the essay, what elements are necessary to attain success?
2. What are the most common parameters by which people view success? Can you name others?
3. If you could have one but not both, which would you choose, to be rich or to be famous? Why?
4. In your opinion, does the writer correctly define success? What is your own definition of success?
5. Who are your models of success? Why?



## THE MANY FACETS OF SUCCESS

Marian Baltazar  
Class of 1980 University of the Philippines Manila  
AB Political Science

Success can have many facets. One may have personal success goals, education success goals and career goals, all of which involve success within a context. We all share different perspective on how one deals and sees success in an individual's life. We have different experiences on each of our own share of attaining success. One thing for sure, how I may define success will totally be different from any other person. For some, success may mean earning a million pesos annually while another person might think of it as a promotion to the top management, but to others it may simply mean achieving the goal that they have set for themselves. Definitely, it is impossible that one thing would mean success to all people. All these things and much more can only mean that it is diversified, thus, having many facets.

What does it really mean to be a successful person? I think it all depends on how we perceive it, but most of the time people measure success by what others have and not by looking at one's own skill and opportunities. What is more important is to realize and know what it really means to you and not to someone else's. Success cannot be measured per se, for it is intangible. It does not follow any definite parameters of achievement. It means achieving the goals you have set for yourself, making your life better than ever. One cannot equate success with money or material things. Then the definition of success turns out to be more elusive as what we imagine it can be.

As for me, the sole measure of success is how you feel after achieving your goals. It is a personal thing. My desire to reach the realization of my goal in life and achieve it in a state of bliss is the true meaning of success. It is not tantamount to wealth or any amount of money. You will know it when you have achieved success for there is a different aura uncovered in your personality. It is having that unperturbed feeling deep inside you, that is, you feel that you are in harmony with the world.

Finally, success is doing your best in what you do and it is the time wherein you can say that I have lived my life today better than yesterday and not regret the past but sets your mind on the future ahead of you. Most of all for a person to become a true success, one must always humble himself before God, acknowledging and glorifying Him in his life and giving due reverence to the Mighty Creator of heaven and earth. For after all that is said and done, at the end of the day, we will come and meet our Master, stand before Him and account everything that we have done on earth. It will be an ultimate success to hear the Lord say to us, "Well done, my good and faithful servant."

Questions for discussion:

1. What is the true meaning of success?
2. How can one attain success?
3. Can success also mean overcoming one's failure in life?
4. How can you truly measure success?
5. Can we consider success to be finite or infinite? Elaborate on your answer.



International Online Teachers Society(IOTS) is an independent non profit international organization committed to improving the state of online and offline education in the world by engaging all kinds of language teachers with fluent English speaking skill in the world to shape global, regional and education agendas.  
[www.iotsonline.com](http://www.iotsonline.com)