

IDEAS 13

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



**International Online Teachers Society
Publishing Committee**



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THE 13TH INTERNATIONAL ONLINE TEACHERS SOCIETY ESSAY CONTEST

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Looking Without Seeing

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I'm blind as a bat without my eyeglasses—well almost, if you count the number of times I've practically bumped into an acquaintance on the street and didn't even smile in recognition or wave back. Bats have it easier because they've got echolocation working for them. In my case, having to wear a headset and staring at the computer monitor for the greater part of the day while doing my online work have made me virtually blind and deaf. The good thing is, all my other senses have learned to work harder to make up for what I have practically lost.

Vision is probably the one thing that people normally have, but unfortunately do not have the gumption to use. Most people are gifted with hindsight, which is not really a gift at all because almost any one person can readily perceive and understand the significance of an event after it has happened. Even a child can do that with sufficient training. But foresight, well, that's totally different, and it is more a rare gift than a mere common trait. According to a particular website, there are people who are endowed with a "vision of the future" while there are others who do have the same ability, but to a lesser extent. In addition, there is a "third group", and they elect to stay in the here and now and not get hampered in any way by futuristic considerations. The same website proposes five levels of the pragmatic visionary index: Down-to-earth; Pragmatist; Moderately Visionary; Visionary; and Dreamer. See <http://www.humanmetrics.com/visionary/VisionaryPersonGuide.htm>.

Scientists like Albert Einstein, Nicola Tesla and Gregor Mendel, chief executives like Thomas Jefferson (US third president), Bill Gates and Buckminster Fuller (Mensa International's second president), philosophers/teachers like Jesus (!), Confucius, Karl Marx, and a good number of others rank high in the scale. The scale pegs really visionary individuals as having more than 85% visionary index value, while simple, practical individuals have values less than 35%.

Now, this is not to be misconstrued as an indication of reproof for people who have less index values. The crux of the matter is, people should use whatever gift of "sight" they have to look far beyond their own capabilities. The world is your universe, filled with endless possibilities. Do not look at yourself and conclude that others are infinitely better than you; rather, look at yourself and see that you are a great part of this planet, a special individual with special gifts. Look further, and you can definitely aim higher, do more, see more, hear more clearly. Develop whatever you see in yourself (in a good way, of course), but do not lose sight of the ground below you.

In the end, your eyes should remain focused ever upward, but should also remain humbly downward. For there will always be someone better than you or anyone else, and He is ever watchful.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Do some reading on the visionary people mentioned in the essay. What do you think makes them special?
2. Do you think that tests like the one cited in the article are accurate? Why or why not?
3. How do you see yourself in 5 years? 10? 20?
4. How can people "look without seeing"? Elaborate on your answer.
5. In what way/s can a person make his vision of the world better? Are you willing to go even further to achieve that?



VISION – THE PASSION OF VISUALIZING YOUR DREAM

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Every person has his own dream, his own ambition, his own goal and his own passion in life. These are all tantamount to having a vision in life. The motivation that a person has inside of him will serve as an assurance of what an individual wants in his life. That great burning desire inside you is the passion that will help a person envision his dream. Yes, visualize your dream, and know what you want to happen in the future. "Passion, according to John C. Maxwell, is a critical element for anyone who wants to achieve a dream. It is the starting point of all achievement." It will help us overcome the adversities of life and gives us the initiative to pursue that dream, achieve and accomplish it.

According to Webster, "Unusual wisdom is foreseeing what is going to happen." A vision is a picture of what we like to create, to see and happen in our life in the future. You can describe it as if it were happening now. It shows and maneuvers us to where we would want to go in the next few years. It is trying to see what we will be like when we get there. We create a clear vision that represents our desired future, hence creating and envisioning a picture of the future.

We must remember that all successful leaders have a vision for their businesses, organization or teams. This is the most important leadership trait for a successful leader to have. They wouldn't be leaders if it were not so. A vision provides a driving force that could easily be integrated and applied to their decision-making. It can be a major motivator making it an authentic vision that comes from your soul and touches the heart. If a team is emotionally moved by their vision, they can have the strength and power to overcome the ups and downs in whatever their business will encounter. Vision also defines a desired future. Unlike goals, but similar to a mission, vision has no deadline, meaning no "by when." You can put it as a precise response to the query, "Where are we heading this year?" or as lofty as "If we could develop exactly the kind of company we wanted, what would it be like?" Goals and objectives are essential but for an effective growth and development, our values and vision must be prioritized.

Our vision will serve as our long term goal. It can embrace your business and your personal life. It is like building your business of a "\$10 million asset" that you can sell when you get to be 60 and retire to a beach house in Boracay. It is actually creating a value that you can pass on to your children. It can be deeply personal for that matter. Great leaders may be charismatic, but for them to be successful, they must have and be able to communicate and inspire others through their vision. So, let us dream and have its realization by having a VISION in life.

Questions for discussion:

- 1.How can setting your goal lead to having your vision achieved?
- 2.What is your vision in life?
- 3.Can you have a clear vision even if you have a clogged mind? How or why not?
- 4.How can you envision reliving your dream through having a clear vision?
- 5.Does attaining a clear vision lead to the road of success? Explain your answer.



RECONNECT WITH WHO YOU ARE – HAVE A CLEAR VISION

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Each one of us experience a day to day regimen of waking up every morning, doing our thing, meeting people from all walks of life, relaxing when we can and then go back to sleep again.....all of these make us... like being caught in a hamster wheel. The next day brings the same pattern or maybe during weekends we occasionally do something that is fun. Then we start to feel that everything becomes so monotonous, that the days became mundane. Some questions begin to cloud our mind like: Why am I here? ; What's the point? ; Does my life or existence even matter? It is as if your mind wanders and you feel like you are always adrift. This is the time to brace up yourself and reconnect with who you are, what you want to happen in your life, what your hopes and aspirations are, start realizing that you've got to dream and live up to it to make things happen in your life.

Don't just be resigned to the fact that you see things simply as they are. Then, it's about time for you to create and have a clear vision, for you to know what you really want. Is it freedom, belonging and happiness? Are you striving to work harder at your job for your family? Is it a sense of peace or passion? Is it regarding more simplicity in your life or greater capacity to help others? Now, you're going somewhere and notice that your life is moving in a particular direction already. The choice is yours to make, it's either redirect the course or move forward with a higher level of commitment.

If an individual is crushed and burdened with a load of worries because of lack of finances, it will be extremely difficult to think of destiny and have a vision. Our struggles of making a day to day living can rob us off the joy of living and squelch our desire to plan for the future. If this is the case, the more we should reconnect with who we are and where we are headed for. Let's take that leadership role, even if it is in planning our own life. Without a vision, there will never be commitment. Therefore, vision will help us have persistence. It is a trip from where we exist in the present day to an enhanced future.

Life is too short to spend it floating around with no purpose and direction. Clarity of vision is essential to have clarity of priorities. Like what Wattles mentioned, "Behind your clear vision must be the purpose to realize it, to bring it out in tangible expression and behind this purpose must be an invincible and unwavering faith that the thing is already yours, that it is at hand and you only have to take hold of it." You just have to believe and you will see. We have to move on and go for what we believe, that is, have a clear vision in life. There is something inside you that is crying out....."There has to be more to life than this."

Questions for discussion:

1. Do you have a clear vision? If so, what do you really dream of and believe to make things happen?
2. Have you experienced lately that everything happening around seems to be monotonous? How can you avoid it?
3. How can an individual have a clear vision?
4. Which is better to know "how to" and envision or have a vision and then think of "how to"? Explain your answer.
5. At this point and time of your life, how can you say that you realized your vision?



VISION – THE POWER OF ANTICIPATION

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Are there times when we go point blank and just stare at nowhere? Some people just wait and spend their time doing nothing or doing very little at all. Sitting for long hours will get us nowhere. So why not... try to think ahead of time, like for instance, what would happen to my family 10 years from now? This is where anticipation comes in. It is not same as just waiting. Anticipation is powerful and it moves us to action and brings us great joy. We are all human beings and we all face similar problems in life. We cannot just shrug our shoulders and not think of anything, instead we should think of what to do with these problems. We should be visionaries and we have to get started right now. We need a paradigm shift. Anticipation is a fundamental change in approach or assumptions. So that means we need to dream and experience the power of dreaming. Thus, this is the power of having vision.

Vision, as defined in the dictionary, is the act or power of anticipating that which will or may come to be. It is a vivid, imaginative conception or anticipation. It is the ability to think about and plan for the future using intelligence and imagination. Let us allow ourselves to experience and live our dreams. All we have to do is write our vision; articulate our vision; embrace our vision and follow our vision. As the scripture says in Proverbs 29:18: "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." We need a God-given vision for our life because without it we will always wander and flounder. Having no vision means living a purposeless, meaningless life. People will have no sense of direction and we lose the reason for living. Then people become lazy, dissatisfied and sluggish, making them undisciplined and unproductive. We need guidelines; we need to have a goal, a purpose and a vision in life. We need something to aim for, shoot for and to keep us going, not to become dysfunctional, lazy, languid and lackadaisical in our approach to life.

Having a vision is what we hope to become. When we talk of vision, it doesn't only mean the kind of life that you want to live but how would you like to feel while living that life. This will give meaning to our existence, give us a reason to get up every morning to enable us to encounter life's difficulties and fight against all odds that come our way. A vision will give us the inspiration and motivation to keep striving until we have reached what God has put in our heart. Stay on the right track and keep focused on the vision that God placed in your heart. The vision that God will give us will be like a rock that you could hold on to. This vision is like a beacon that will keep me in track with my faith, my marriage, my family, my church, my ministry, my time, my energy, my money and my efforts. Continue to tread the road on the power of anticipation to have a full, meaningful, satisfying and rewarding life so we will be productive human beings.

Questions for discussion:

1. How do you envision your life to be 10 years from now?
2. How can you keep track on the trail of having a clear vision?
3. How would you like to feel and live the life that you have always dreamed of?
4. Do you have a clear vision in life? Explain further.
5. If you were asked what your vision in life is, can you justify it?



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