



Freya

Curriculum Vitae (CV) of Failures 2020

Profile

I'm a second year student at the University of Toronto majoring in literature and linguistics. For a long time, I was unclear about what to study. I enjoyed English and history, and I thought I would go into those fields. But I soon realized how broad my interests were and I had serious commitment issues when it came to declaring a major. Every time someone asked me what I wanted to study, my answer was always different. Sometimes I would say archaeology. Other times, philosophy. Or perhaps I would respond with political science, art history or classics. When it comes to my career path, I am just as indecisive. The one thing I know for sure is that I want to write novels on the side. Now I have a whole folder full of incomplete drafts and I never know if I will ever have the time to finish them.

Objective

My parents were cautious when it came to agreeing that I should go into an arts related field such as creative writing. They knew it can be a risky and competitive field. Everyone in it becomes accustomed to rejection and failure. Even the most famous authors usually have their manuscripts rejected by several different publishing companies before someone decides to accept their work. The important thing to remember is that you shouldn't take it personally when you fail. It doesn't really mean that you're a failure, it just means you have to have a growth mindset and work harder.

The reason why we should embrace failure is because it is the only way you can discover what you are truly passionate about and what you care about. Everyone enjoys things they are good at. I was never particularly fond of math or science in



high school, but even I loved it during those rare occurrences when I did great on a chemistry or biology test. Everyone feels that way when they succeed. But what really shows character is when you get excited about something even when you fail. Rather than taking it personally, you take it as a challenge. I love being handed back a draft littered with corrections. It gives me satisfaction to see the margins filled with notes made in red pen. When you realize you enjoy something even if you get no recognition or money for it, that's when you find your passion.

Education:

2020 - I got a C+ in my earth sciences class in university. I skipped a lot of lectures, so it didn't come as much of a surprise.

2020 - I started doing a free online course on coursera. It's been eight months and I still haven't finished it. I don't think I will ever have the discipline to finish.

2019 - I took the grade 12 AP English language and literature exam, the AP French exam, and the AP human geography exam. All of the scores were too low to be used in university, with my English score being the lowest.

2018 - I took the grade 11 AP English language and composition exam and my score was too low to be of any use in university.

2016 - I took fitness class as an elective in high school because I wanted to improve my physical fitness. When we did tests to measure our flexibility, I was the least flexible in the class. I improved over the course of the semester so when I measured it again I was slightly better, but I was still last place.

2013 - I failed music in elementary school. I was a trombonist and my playing sounded like a wounded animal. My sixth grade music teacher was very disappointed in me and called my parents.

2011 - I failed the very first math test I took in grade 4 which was on number patterns. I left most of the questions blank.



Work Experience

2020 - I applied to write articles for an online magazine and never got a call back.

2020 - I applied to be a telefundraiser at the University of Toronto and never got a call back.

Volunteer Opportunities/ Extracurriculars

2019 - I submitted an essay to the high school round of the Turning Points essay contest thinking that I would have better luck in high school than elementary school but did not win.

2019 - I auditioned again for the slam poetry team and did not make it.

2019 - I submitted a short story to a writing contest run by the Ontario legislative assembly and did not win.

2019 - I submitted a short story to a writing contest run by the Toronto Star and did not win. Not even an honourable mention.

2019 - I took skating lessons to try to get over my fear of skating. I was still scared of skating by the end of the lessons.

2019 - I auditioned for my school's singing club and did not get in.

2018 - I tried participating in NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month) but I was too busy with school to be able to achieve the 50,000 word count required.

2018 - I auditioned for the school's talent show with slam poetry as my talent but did not pass the audition.

2018 - I drew a logo for the Google logo contest and did not win.

2015 - I tried out for my high school's slam poetry team and got last place.



2013 - I tried out for my elementary school's badminton team and didn't make it.

2013 - I submitted a poem for an anthology about Remembrance Day that never got published.

2013 - I submitted an essay to the elementary school round of the Turning Points essay competition. Can you guess what the result was? I didn't win.

2013 - I went over the time limit at the semi-final round of a slam poetry competition. Luckily the rest of my team was solid, so we still advanced to the finals. At the finals, one of the judges gave me a 5 on my poem. In all my experience with slam poetry (including both elementary school and high school) that was the lowest score I have ever seen. Other than that, I have never seen anyone get a score below 7. My team did not win.

2011 - I tried out for my elementary school's cross country team and didn't make it.

2011 - I never won a single ribbon during track and field day, except for the participation one

Awards

2020 - I applied for a \$1000 scholarship for which I wrote an essay and received \$0.

2020 - I applied for a \$500 scholarship for which I wrote a short story and received \$0 to add to the \$0 I won from the other scholarship.

2019 - I applied for my high school's geography award and did not get it.

2019 - I applied for my high school's drama award and did not get it.



Opportunities that my fear of failure has kept me from pursuing

2020 - Auditioning for a choir in university.

2019 - Participating in a linguistics olympiad.

2019 - Participating in a neuroscience competition.

2019 - Auditioning to play the flute at any concerts or talent shows or joining an ensemble or band.

2015 - Taking visual arts in high school even though I really wanted to.

2015 - Joining the girls running club in high school.

2015 - Trying out for any sports teams in high school.