

Grit Student Worksheet: The Perseverance Walk

From "A Bit of Grit" by Amy Lyon

Your job for this activity is to speak with someone who has proven to be "gritty," to find out something BIG that he/she accomplished, as well as to find out how that goal was achieved. Remember (and this is important), this exercise is not about someone overcoming hardships in life and then doing well. This assignment is to ask all you can about someone who set a difficult, far-off goal, and was able to achieve it. Please keep in mind the interview etiquette list, even if you are interviewing a close relative. You may conduct your interview in person, over the phone, or use FaceTime or email. You need to complete the interview in a way that works best for you and your interviewee.

Once the interview is completed, you need to find or take a photo of the person, or draw your best resemblance. You also need to write up the three parts of the interview to use for the project due on _____. Those three sections will be:

- A. The goal your gritty person was aiming for
- B. The obstacles/struggles your person had to overcome and how he/she was able to manage those
- C. What his/her life is like now that he/she accomplished the big goal

Think about what format you might use to tell the Perseverance Walk story of your interviewee. It could be a paper storyboard, a Powerpoint or Prezi, a 3-D model, or whatever else you can imagine. You need to find appropriate ways to showcase the three sections of your person's story. Once you have completed your project, you will present it to others. Be sure to show pride in your person's big accomplishment.

Take care and have fun with your gritty interviews!

Your name:

"Gritty" person's name:

Date that you interviewed:

Interview etiquette to keep in mind:

- Ask permission to interview first, then ask what a good time would be to complete the interview
- Practice asking the questions before the interview
- Ask respectful questions and react appropriately
- Be polite, respectful, and a good listener
- Take the interview seriously
- Ask permission to get in contact again if you need to

Suggested questions to ask: (Remember, you are not limited to these questions.)

1. During your life so far, what has been one of the biggest goals you've set that you were able to achieve?
2. What did you have to do to accomplish that goal?
3. Where did you get your inspiration?
4. Were there any obstacles that got in your way? If so, how did you handle that? What about people? Were there any people who discouraged you while reaching for your goal?
5. Did you ever think of giving up? If so, how did you overcome that feeling?
6. When you achieved your goal, how did it help you in life? -OR- What is your life like now that you have accomplished your goal?