**Muhammad Fadhil Jayakusuma - ACS Jakarta**

In the past, I found myself apprehensive about seizing opportunities and lacking the courage to step out of my comfort zone due to a deep-rooted fear of failure. The mere thought of making mistakes or not living up to expectations would cause me to retreat and play it safe. The fear of the unknown derived from the uncertainty of the future has restricted me from advancing through the realms of human endeavour. However, as I embarked on my journey of personal growth and self-discovery, I gradually recognized the intrinsic value of failure and how it may act as a catalyst for learning and development of one’s character. As I opened myself up to taking risks and embracing uncertainty, I witnessed firsthand the transformative power of failure. Every stumble became a valuable lesson, providing me with insights, skills, and perspectives that I would have otherwise missed. It was through these experiences that I gained a deep appreciation for the growth mindset, acknowledging the gravity of pushing beyond my limits.

As I reflect upon my experience with CAS Camp Garut, my personal project, and the personal growth it has brought, I can't help but connect it to the invaluable lesson of learning from failure and embracing the courage to seize opportunities and dive into the unknown. This endavour taught me the importance of pushing past my comfort zone and embracing new challenges. In the beginning, the mere thought of stepping into uncharted territory filled me with an overwhelming sense of anxiety. The fear of the unknown loomed large, overshadowing any inkling of desire to embark and embrace new endavours. As the sign-up period approached, I convinced myself that I would let the opportunity slip away like a gentle breeze, blowing away blindly. But I was mistaken. It was my parents, the two unwavering pillars of influence in my life, who refused to let me shy away from this transformative opportunity. Their stiff insistence acted as a catalyst, urging me to seize the chance to swim in this sea of mystery. Reluctantly, yet with an ink of curiosity and a glimmer of hope, I unwillingly made the decision to take that leap of faith. In just three days, fate intervened in the most unexpected manner. Against all odds, I was bestowed with the honor of being selected as the main leader of this large scale project. The news came as a whirlwind, sudden and surprising, stirring a collection of emotions within me; excitement, fear, and a lingering self-doubt. Suddenly, the weight of responsibility rested upon my shoulders, propelling me to confront my deepest fears and insecurities head-on.

From the outset, I was confronted with the daunting task of managing a team and overseeing a project of immense scale. The responsibility of raising 850 million IDR and leading over 80 students was no small feat. It challenged me to confront my deeproted fear of the unknown by taking on the role of a leader with confidence and determination. The journey was not without its challenges. Meticulous planning and evaluating potential outcomes became paramount to our success. Navigating complex logistics and addressing unexpected obstacles demanded quick thinking, adaptability, and a resilient approach. However, what truly left a lasting impact on me was the bond I forged with the underprivileged community in Garut. Witnessing the transformative power of education and the gratitude of the students and their families cemented in me a deep sense of purpose and a commitment to making a difference in their lives. The experience with CAS Camp Garut taught me the profound lesson that failure is not a hindrance, but rather a stepping stone to success. It empowered me to embrace new opportunities, take calculated risks, and

continuously strive for personal and social growth. This experience in particular has encouraged me to tackle challenges head-on, realizing that the lessons learned from failure will propel me towards my aspirations and enable me to create a positive lasting difference in the world. Through my active involvement, I have not only acquired practical skills and expertise but have also developed an unwavering sense of empathy, resilience, and an unyielding dedication to community service. This transformative experience has fortified my resolve to pursue higher education and fervently engage in initiatives that foster equitable access to quality education for marginalized communities.

Through self-introspection, I came to understand that failure is not an indication of incompetence or inadequacy, yet an integral part of a learning process which yields a greater outcome. Each setback presented an opportunity for self-introspection, fueling personal growth. Embracing failure serves as a stepping stone for success, allowing me to overcome my fear and embrace new challenges with a sense of courage and determination. Now, I approach opportunities with a newfound sense of enthusiasm, embracing possibilities of failure as an opportunity for growth. I am no longer paralyzed by the fear of falling short but rather motivated by the prospect of continuous learning and self-improvement. Acknowledging the need for failure has empowered me to take bold steps, pursue ambitious goals, and discover my true potential.

Dear Fadhil,

This is a good start for your essay. Learning from failure to achieve success is a strong topic with a lot of potential for an engaging, relatable essay. However, I have several suggestions on how you could improve your structure, as listed below.

First, remember – the goal here is to retell a story that showcases your personal growth. It’s better to focus on a single story (for example, your CAS Camp Garut project), and to take the reader step-by-step through this story, by structuring it as follows:

1. Set up your background —> this usually makes up your first paragraph. Tell us about who you are, your fear of failure, and the beginning of your story of personal growth (How did you approach signing up for a challenge such as CAS Camp Garut?).
2. Set up the conflict or build-up —> this makes up the following paragraphs. Did you encounter failure during this project? If your whole story is about how you overcame your fear of failure, the reader will undoubtedly expect a story where you failed and bounced back. Think about how you want to frame this in a way that highlights your growth in your revision.
3. Your personal growth, and plans for the future —> this makes up your final few paragraphs. What lessons did you learn through this experience? How will you utilize these lessons in the future?

Second, your essay currently contains a lot of *telling*, and not enough *showing*. In every paragraph, you’ve repeated that “embracing failure and embracing new challenges leads to success”. However, you haven’t *shown* us exactly how you reached this conclusion. This lesson is better placed at the *end* of your essay, only after you’ve gone through your story of personal growth.

Lastly, mind the word limit. If you feel like certain sentences aren’t strictly necessary to tell your story, or are repetitive, consider deleting them. You can use the PEEL structure for each paragraph: Point, Evidence, Explanation, Link (to next paragraph).

Otherwise, you’re headed in a good direction so far. Keep it up.