

Assignment: Reflect on the following questions:

1. Of the eight entrepreneurs featured in this lesson, which inspires you the most? Why?

I'm going to be honest; we've only covered two entrepreneurs within Lesson 8. Although this week we have been interacting with a few local entrepreneurs within our community. Of them, it's a bit of a toss-up between Rich Foreman, Anna von Wendorff, and Christian Massegian. Rich is inspiring because of the story of going from side hobby to success despite the trials and tribulations.

2. What challenges did the entrepreneur overcome? How do these challenges compare to your own?

Rich overcame challenges in various flops and culture shifts in the different areas that he worked in. For me, it got me to reflect upon the type of company that I seek to be part of or build. How it compares to my own challenges is in my past and current struggles with local working and innovation culture within the broader community and within local companies. For me the biggest conflict of culture has been the passivity of corporate innovation in comparison to my immense appetite for innovation and movement.

3. If knowledge and effort (rather than luck and circumstances) are the keys that empower entrepreneurs to succeed, what are you willing to give up in order to accomplish your goals?

I've already given up a fair amount of sleep. I've given up a long-held job, then potentially lucrative work contract all for the sake of obtaining skills and knowledge to better round out by abilities and build my network. I've given up much of a social life and gained a new social life. I've given up free time. I've given up meals. All of this was in the effort to build out skills, knowledge, and networks for my next moves so that I have a better chance with whatever I choose as my next project.

4. What stands out to you, feels new to you, excites you, or challenges you from this lesson?

The timeless application of Uncle Cleve's message mentioning how people often fall prey to popular misconceptions about entrepreneurs and what it takes to succeed really resonates with me. Especially with the story involving Clifton's struggles with publishing his stories written in the Airforce. Many of my previous projects were sidelined because of the innumerable setbacks that I was facing at the time. It kind of gives me a bit of hope knowing that if I persevere, something might come out of the whole situation.