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Staring at the Crossroads.

What does success mean to you?

Maybe it's graduating high school, getting into the college or university of your dreams, finding a job that blurs the line between work and play, or meeting that special someone to spend the rest of your days with.

Maybe it's finishing a Quarter Pounder from McDonald's in two minutes flat.

In all honesty, it's difficult to place the label "success" as something that applies to every single person in the same way. Success comes in all kinds of forms and colours, and it can get overwhelming trying to find a set path to reach your dreams and aspirations. There's bound to be times in your life where the road to success seems to be consistently under construction, and believe it or not, that's normal. Nobody's road to success is completely smooth and easy. After all, there's a reason it's called a road to success, not a Slip 'N Slide to success. Unless, of course, your plan for success is to master the art of Slip 'N Slide.

With all these different paths to success in mind and so many destinations, it's overwhelming to find which route is the best for you. That's understandable. Nobody's ever walked on each and every one of the world's millions of streets. However, when looking up to all the influencers of today, there seems to be a defining point of interest.

Dreams. Ideas. Aspirations. Perseverance. Dedication. All traits we've heard before. Maybe they'd be a little more impactful if they weren't repeated at every twist and turn, but then again, perhaps the reason they're so redundant is because they were drilled into us from a young age. After reading through multiple articles on tips for success and compiling, editing, and condensing them all into a single, short phrase, it seems like the real key to success is a bit vague.

"Hard work and success go hand in hand. What you lack in talent, you can make up for in practice."

When I said vague, I meant it.

But perhaps the vagueness of this statement is really what's beautiful about the road to success. There's always a certain allure about the unknown, after all. In the end, it's all up to interpretation. Success is what you make it to be, and it doesn't always have to be something huge. Maybe success is getting up out of bed on time in the morning. Maybe it's completing an equation that posed a huge challenge to you.

Perhaps the only real definition of success is whatever definition you give it, and what meaning the word holds to yourself. What does hard work mean to you? What does practice entail? Whatever it is, strive to be the greatest, and remember- even if you get blue-shelled in Mario Kart, it doesn't mean that you won't pick up a bullet and shoot to first place.