

The success story I chose is that of Henry Ford. According to Fast Company's Robert Greene (2012), in the late 1890s, Ford was on a mission to build automobiles and with William H. Murphy as his financial backer, Ford founded the Detroit Automobile Company. Unfortunately, the design of his automobile was taking too long and his board of directors dissolved the company soon after its creation. Ford convinced Murphy to back him once more, but this attempt at starting a car company also failed. With two blown chances under his belt, no one believed in Ford anymore, except Ford himself (Greene, 2012).

Greene (2012) went on to explain, "[Ford] told everyone that these were all invaluable lessons to him—he had paid attention to every glitch along the way, and like a watch or an engine, he had taken apart these failures in his mind and had identified the root cause." Ford found his third and best financial backer in Alexander Malcomson. With Malcomson, Ford formed Ford Motor Company and was finally able to build the car he wanted, the way he wanted it, and the orders started growing. As most probably know, Ford Motor Company went on to become a titan in the automobile industry that is still making cars today (Greene, 2012).

Those who can fail publicly, multiple times and just keep going are shining examples of resilience. Ford did not just fail to create a quality product the first few times around; he lost the faith of those around him, those who did not even know him. When people who once believed in you have turned their back on you, it is soul crushing. Not to Henry Ford though, he believed in his idea and in himself so strongly that he didn't miss a beat; he just kept going.

I chose Ford's story because I think his perspective is an important one to acknowledge. Many people would fall apart given the same scenario. Many might take a few years to get back on their feet. These people are still strong, they are still important, and I am likely one of them. However, Ford was a different breed. Ford wasn't fazed by public opinion, and I find that a noteworthy feat. If you look around at everyone today, you will notice that most people cannot go more than five minutes without checking to see if their most recent Facebook status was "liked" by anyone. Imagine the negative comments Ford would have received online today for his initial failed companies. I honestly believe Ford would not look at or care what was posted.

I do not compare myself to Ford and think, "I need to be this way." Rather, I just hope I have the courage to believe in my idea enough to keep going in the face of mass criticism. I will not be able to silence the judgement of others in my head in the same way it seems Ford could, but I like the idea that I might be able to learn how to quiet it enough to carry on, even if it is very loud. In addition, I hope to help others learn and practice similar resilience in the app that I want to create after school. Your opinion of yourself is the most important opinion in the world, and as Ford knew, it need not be dependent on what others think of you.

Reference:

Greene, R. (2012). *Be Like Henry Ford: Apprentice Yourself In Failure*. Fast Company. Retrieved 15 January 2016, from <http://www.fastcompany.com/3002809/be-henry-ford-apprentice-yourself-failure>