**A Course for Confidence**

What’s happening class. I’m currently living in Shanghai China, from Orlando Florida, on holiday during what is called “Spring Festival”. This is kind of like the Christmas break for countries in the region which last between one - two weeks. So the beginning of February for me is a two-week vacation from my job, a lot of people like to travel during this time but I need to work on my FS assignments so I will only take a few days to leave the city. I work in the education industry here, it’s an interesting life, and look towards using the development and design skills learned from this course to produce software for this industry. Prior teaching and training English to people here I worked as a marine (maritime) engineer traveling/living/working all over the world visiting over 25 different countries in my life time. If anyone is interested in coming to China to work as an English teacher feel free to let me know and I can give you some advice.

The biggest challenge for me is going to be dealing with the unreliable internet with in this city/country. China blocks a lot of foreign websites and even accessing sites that are hosted abroad that aren’t blocked can be painfully slow sometimes, this is dealt with by using a VPN but even that is not reliable. For example, I tried to attend the GoToTraining this morning (my time) and the internet wasn’t working. So when things like this happen I need to focus my time to some other task.

Goal/Aspirations: to complete this course, and be proficient in application design and development to a level that I can work towards producing apps that are the highest quality.

**Replies**

terence pierce

Tomas,

That's awesome that you get to travel. How's the weather in Shanghai, China? I currently live in Orlando, Florida. Growing with both of my parents being in the Army I had my share time of traveling. I was born in Seoul, Korea. I lived several years in Germany before moving to the states. That really sucks that the internet is unreliable in China. What type of mobile apps are you interested in developing?

5 days ago

Tomas Umholtz

Top of Form

Terence Ya Seoul is awesome, I love going there. As for the weather in Shanghai it rains a lot more than I expected (this is my first year here, I previously lived in Beijing and Guangzhou). Never been to Germany but hit a bunch of countries in the Mediterranean some years back. The apps I am interested in are ways to gamify engineering concepts such as electronic circuits/logic, thermodynamics, refrigeration concepts (like make it fun and learn the concepts at the same time) think "sim power station" and/or class management solutions for the ESL schools where I am. Just gotta stay motivated, you know. - Tommy

Bottom of Form

[Edit](https://course.fso.fullsail.edu/class_sections/69077/discussions/1109597) 4 days ago LATE

Robin Groff Alarcon

INSTRUCTOR

Tomas, thank you for sharing. What is the time difference, about 13 or 14 hours ahead? My nephew is in Japan. Hopefully, the Internet will cooperate and the the sites you need this month won't be blocked. Terrence, thank you for responding.  One of my students last month lived in Germany, that's one country I have always wanted to visit.

4 days ago LATE

**My Replies**

Daniel Sanchez

* [Last updated a day ago](https://course.fso.fullsail.edu/class_sections/69077/discussions/1109615/posts/6001435)
* 5 replies

I think that success is earned rather then given. There are people in this world that may have inherited success from distant relative; but the motivating stories are of people who worked from the ground up. In the sport’s world there are numerous success stories between Michael Jordan to Tom Brady. Though individual success is motivational, I think that a company’s success is just as inspirational.

I enjoy the successful story of Starbucks. Starbucks is a globally recognized coffee shop with more then 15,000 stores. Starbucks originated in Seattle, Washington by two teachers and a writer: Jerry Baldwin, Zev Siegel, and Gordon Bowker. With their own money, plus some loans, Starbucks was started with $8,000. The original Starbucks wasn’t the coffee house that we think of today. It was a roaster company. A few years later, Starbucks would be the largest roaster in Washington. The company would finally go global after the hiring of a marketing director by the name of Howard Schultz in 1982. Schultz would eventually become the CEO of Starbucks, giving the company the successful story that we know and love today.

I chose this company because it didn’t take scholarly businessmen to create the franchise. Even though Starbucks didn’t take off until an aggressive marketing executive took over; it had a foundation by three common men. The reason I chose this company is because of how it started. It started with three common people sharing a dream. With hard work, dedication, and some self-motivation they were able to gather the tools and help from others. They were able to earn respect and trust from people who could take their company to the next level.

I don’t personally have a lot of knowledge or understanding (yet) of the tools to create amazing applications; however, I’m driven to become successful. Utilizing the educational quest that I’m currently on, I will be able to eventually become successful. I can’t relate to the foundational story of Starbucks, but one day I hope to get to a respectable place.

5 days ago

[+5 replies](https://course.fso.fullsail.edu/class_sections/69077/discussions/1109615)

Chad Rutherford

Hello Daniel,

    Awesome story. Also a good bit of information I didn't know. I love Starbucks coffee and it's great to know that they had such humble beginnings. While it ultimately took the marketing director to come in and show them the potential they had, they seemed ultimately happy with the business they had been running at the time. It does prove that hard work pays off. I hope all of us here at Full Sail get the chance to recognize our dreams and wishes. I know it's a long bumpy road, but I'm willing to ride out all the bumps as well as the smooth roads to realize my dreams and watch them come true. Great story Daniel!

4 days ago

Tomas Umholtz

Top of Form

Daniel, “success is earned rather then given” echoes a point in my review about how coming from a family that is well off doesn’t grant you some special access to “success”. I see quite often how parents where I live want to kind of design their children into becoming the successful or the next big thing. The do this with structured course, math, art, music, etc. and also by having their children prepare rigorously to pass standardized test. Yet when it’s time to think critically if its not an answer on a test they have no idea what to do. Thinking critically comes from understanding and solving problems you encounter in life and being exceptional at this requires a drive to seek out and solve these problems.

Bottom of Form

[Edit](https://course.fso.fullsail.edu/class_sections/69077/discussions/1109615) 4 days ago

Charles Riggs

Great post!  The Starbucks' story is one of my favorites.  I read Howard Schultz's book, Onward, and it was amazing.  Before reading the book I didn't know anything about it's startup.  It was a successful business way back then and who could have imagined it would become the giant it is today.  People like to poke fun at Starbucks' lovers for being trendy or whatever else they come up with but Starbucks still has that mom and pop store feeling even though it is a huge corporation.  From reading Onward you I felt like Schultz really cares about people and tried to be a transparent as possible with investors, the media, and employees even in difficult times;  that sort of thing is rare in today's corporate world.

4 days ago

Zena Zahran

I had done much search on the visual aspects of Starbuck's for the most part.  Much of my research was based on the progression of the their logo, you might never have guessed that its logo is the image of a mermaid.  Though it is clearly visible in the earlier image.  I had no idea that it was started by educators. I find that the article [How to Unleash the Power of Strategic Partnerships](http://recruitloop.com/blog/the-power-of-strategic-partnerships/), helps to discover how strategic planning helps to grow marketing initiatives.  Maybe this is why there is a big push on its students working on our own alliances early on.

2 days ago

Robin Groff Alarcon

INSTRUCTOR

Daniel, you tugged on my taste buds with this one.  I love your comparison of Starbucks beginning and where you are on your journey today. You have the right mindset to follow in Starbucks footsteps, metaphorically speaking. Chad, hopefully, your instructors and classmates will serve the same function as Howard Shultz did for Starbucks, to show each and every one of you your potential. Tomas, well said; I particularly like your last statement, "Thinking critically comes from understanding and solving problems you encounter in life and being exceptional at this requires a drive to seek out and solve these problems."  Hopefully, that is another function that your instructors will serve, to help you think critically and solve problems on your own. Charles, I agree with you.  Whether one agrees with the stance that Starbucks takes or not, one cannot possibly say that Starbucks doesn't care about the community. Zena, great thought.  I had not made the correlation between the founders being educators and the treatment and standards that Starbucks has for it's baristas.  It just goes to show that you can treat your employees well and still make it.  That's a valuable lesson for all of us.  Good job all.

a day ago LATE

Success can be measured a multitude of ways. It can be measured monetarily, professionally, or spiritually, but to me true success is a combination of everything. That is why I chose Gary Vaynerchuk as my story of success. Gary Vaynerchuk was born in Babruysk, Belarus on November 14, 1975 (Vaynerchuk, n.d.). His family immigrated to the United States and in 1978 they moved to New Jersey, where his father worked at the family’s discount liquor store. (Vaynerchuk, n.d.) After college, Gary Vaynerchuk took over the family business and transformed it into a multimillion dollar business, within the span of five years. (Vaynerchuk, n.d.) At that point in his life, Gary Vaynerchuk was financially secure and successful, but he wasn’t happy. So Gary Vaynerchuk left behind his very successful career and business in order to follow his dreams. (Vaynerchuk, n.d.)

Today, Gary Vaynerchuk has become very successful by following his dreams and monetizing what he loves. He is a prolific public speaker, author, entrepreneur, investor, and social media accolade (Vaynerchuk, n.d.). His most notable achievements are that he tours around the country speaking and offering advice based on his own successful life experiences and he is also a bestselling author with over three very successful books under his belt (Vaynerchuk, n.d.). In 2008, he was asked to speak at TED and he said something that struck a chord with me. During that speech he said, “There’s way too many people right now that are doing stuff they hate” (Vaynerchuk, 2008) and that you need to “look yourself in the mirror and ask yourself, what do I want to do every day for the rest of my life?” (Vaynerchuk, 2008). That small phrase made me reevaluate everything in my life.

A year ago, I was stuck at a monotonous unfulfilling job that I absolutely hated and saw no way out. He inspired me to stop following that trend of negativity and to pursue my dreams. That is what I am doing now, by attending Full Sail. I am “continuously hustling” (Vaynerchuk, 2008) to achieve my goals and follow my dreams. At the end of this wonderful experience, I will accomplish something I thought at one point in my life was insurmountable, by turning my dreams into a reality and that is why Gary Vaynerchuk is a success story to me.

**Citations:**

Vaynerchuk, G. (n.d.) Gary Vaynerchuk Builds Businesses. Retrieved February 4, 2016, from https://www.garyvaynerchuk.com/biography/

Vaynerchuk, G. (2008 September) Gary Vaynerchuk: Do what you love (no excuses!) Retrieved February 4, 2016, from https://www.ted.com/talks/gary\_vaynerchuk\_do\_what\_you\_love\_no\_excuses

4 days ago

[+4 replies](https://course.fso.fullsail.edu/class_sections/69077/discussions/1109615)

Sean Buchholz

Gary V is a really inspiring guy, it's nice to see him get some love in this class. I don't necessarily agree with every single one of his ideas or thoughts, but he's one of my heroes' heroes, so I have a lot of respect for him. It's incredible that he went from a daily wine vlog to being one of the most successful and influential creators out there. His "constant hustle" philosophy is inspiring and helps remind me that I'm doing what's important for myself in the long term by focusing time and effort here and now.

4 days ago

Shawn Young

Hello Brandy,

Gary Vaynerchuk definitely sounds like an interesting and successful guy. I was very interested on what dream he chose to follow. Because I do not know who Gary is I have no idea what he was successful at. Besides that I thought it was really cool how you related his decision to leave his company to your decision to go to college and develop your dream as well.

3 days ago

Tomas Umholtz

Top of Form

I watched the linked TED Talk video and liked the part of Gary’s presentation specifically where he talked about working towards doing something in life that makes you happy and and putting in real work on the way. People only have some much time in their lives, make the most of it. I also like how he talks about basing your personal brand on quality, hard work and transparency, not gimmicks and exploiting weaknesses.

Bottom of Form

[Edit](https://course.fso.fullsail.edu/class_sections/69077/discussions/1109615) 2 days ago

Robin Groff Alarcon

INSTRUCTOR

Brandy, great choice. What a great message, no one should ever work in a job that is unfulfilling or hated.  Sean, Shawn and Tomas, thank you for responding.

5 hours ago LATE

**Anchor Points**

Top of Form

 Lived worked and or traveled to over 25 countries. Served in the US Navy as an engineer and also a photojournalist. Worked as a Merchant Mariner Refrigeration Engineer/Specialist.

 Currently living and working in Shanghai China as a consultant/language teacher and attending FS University’s Mobile Development program.

 Create a product that is highly organized concise and well thought out with a specific function that follows its function efficiently. I’m not sure what that ‘product’ is yet.

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[Edit](https://course.fso.fullsail.edu/class_sections/69077/discussions/1109605) 6 days ago

**Replies**

[+5 replies](https://course.fso.fullsail.edu/class_sections/69077/discussions/1109605)

Zena Zahran

Quick and quite to the post!  Please do not forget to include headings.  That was something that Robin expressed in our GoTo training on Monday night.  As for your bullet point #3, are you looking to build one app, a series or are you looking to create your company.  Apps are becoming a huge part of the military.  Please check out this article:

[**Military apps putting iPhone in the battlefield**](http://www.networkworld.com/article/2202140/smartphones/military-apps-putting-iphone-in-the-battlefield.html)

RELATED

* [iPads, Android tablets and smartphones join the military](http://www.networkworld.com/article/2201028/smartphones/ipads--android-tablets-and-smartphones-join-the-military.html)
* [Emerging iPhone, iPad 2 App Enables Remote Surveillance](http://www.networkworld.com/article/2201303/smartphones/emerging-iphone--ipad-2-app-enables-remote-surveillance.html)
* [Tablet deathmatch: Apple iPad 2 vs. Motorola Xoom](http://www.networkworld.com/article/2200970/computers/tablet-deathmatch--apple-ipad-2-vs--motorola-xoom.html)
* on IDG **Answers**

[How can I convert my company's Flash-based website to work on the iPad?](http://www.idganswers.com/question/868/how-can-i-convert-my-company-s-flash-based-website-to-work-on-the-ipad#src=nww)

Presently, the NSA is looking for app developers to create these types of apps.  You don't always have to reinvent the wheel.  You may want to visit many of the sites that have  that host military's direction for the future.  It may surprise you!  iPhone apps are being developed for military mapping, surveillance.

[Rebels Use iPad App to Aim Mortars](http://www.military.com/video/operations-and-strategy/battles/rebels-use-ipad-app-to-aim-mortars/2680199759001)

[Secure Mobile Environment Portable Electronic Device (SME PED)](https://www.nsa.gov/ia/news/2009/sme-ped.shtml)

I do hope that some of this information is helpful!

5 days ago

*The author edited this post*

Robin Groff Alarcon

INSTRUCTOR

Tomas, Zena is correct, the headings are required and serve as insurance that all of the questions have been answered. Thank you for your service. Zena, great response!  Thank you for providing so much information to Tomas.

3 days ago LATE

Zena Zahran

My pleasure Robin! My youngest son is sixteen and in the Navy Sea Cadets.  I find myself always researching military sites.

3 days ago LATE

Tomas Umholtz

Top of Form

Zena, sorry I missed your post, thanks for helping.

Bottom of Form

[Edit](https://course.fso.fullsail.edu/class_sections/69077/discussions/1109605) 2 days ago LATE

Zena Zahran

It's alright Tomas!  I hope it was useful.

2 days ago LATE

**A Call to Success**

World wide it’s pretty common knowledge that America has some of the most successful and richest people of our times. Generally, people equate wealth with ‘success’ so when asked who is the most successful person in the world the most common answer is Bill Gates. This is even true in China but if you ask a Mainland Chinese citizen who the most successful person in their country is they will tell you Jack Ma or Ma Yun (马云).

MA was born in the eastern city of Hangzhou near Shanghai during the 1960’s and comes from a household of the time. He grew up during the time of Mao Zedong Cultural revolution, a time when many traditional ways were persecuted against. His father and mother both musical story tellers, that is they performed musical plays to earn money, which was technically banned by the Maoist government. This line of work along with his grandfather’s affiliation with China’s ousted National party did not earn him any favors from society. His childhood life was practically void of direct technological influence or privilege so how did he end up founding what would become one of China’s most valuable ecommerce holdings companies?

He’s derived his wealth and success from his ability to predict future market needs discovering ways to accommodate those markets and and also in having an uncanny ability to make people want to follow his direction. To me that is the basic formula for anyone to achieve success of this type: a vision, a market, and the ability to get people on board with that vision, no matter how hard you try you are one person and you *can* only do the work of one person. From Jack’s common background it’s shown that achieving this special success is not something from a designed childhood environment, it is a combination of unique life experiences.

Refrences:

MacLeod, C. (2014). Alibaba's Jack Ma: From 'crazy' to China's richest man. Retrieved February 04, 2016, from http://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/2014/09/17/alibaba-jack-ma-profile/15406641/

Gough, N., & Stevenson, A. (2014). The Unlikely Ascent of Jack Ma, Alibaba’s Founder. Retrieved February 04, 2016, from http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/08/technology/the-unlikely-ascent-of-jack-ma-alibabas-founder.html?\_r=0

**Replies**

Amanda Stacy

Thomas, it's nice to hear about success of others in other countries. I've never really thought about successful people outside of the US, unless they are game developers. I firmly believe, and he is a great example, that your family background does not define your future.

2 days ago

Robin Groff Alarcon

INSTRUCTOR

Tomas, good choice.  How does Ma's journey relate to yours?  Is it as Amanda stated that family background does not matter or is there some other reason?

3 hours ago LATE

Tomas Umholtz

Top of Form

I relate Ma's experience with having a background that doesn't really apply to the field I am going into and that with a unique perspective I hope to think of and do things that others haven't, similar to Ma.

Bottom of Form

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