

# 3rd Quarter Performance Task

COMMUNICATION ARTS IN ENGLISH 9

# A Critique Paper

By: Group 15 (6)

Alunan, Misakichi A.

Aujero, Shulamith M.

Cobias, Katrina Gwen P.

Olvido, Janine Ysabelle J.

Potestad, Abigail M.

Submitted to: Sir Ariel Villaceran

# GRIT

THE POWER OF PASSION AND PERSEVERANCE



BY: ANGELA LEE DUCKWORTH

# SUMMARY OF THE VIDEO

The video tackles the theory of Grit: The Strongest Prediction of Success. The journey of the speaker, Angela Duckworth with coming up with the theory of Grit was shared. From being a 7th grade math teacher acknowledging that IQ is not the only difference between her best and worst students to a psychologist studying kids and adults in all kinds of challenging settings coming up with the main question of "Who is successful here and why?". From all of the evaluation and observation she did from the military academy to sales persons, the outcome of success is not calculated by the normal or standard measurement of success such as social intelligence, good looks, physical health, and IQ but grit. She explained that grit is passion and perseverance for very long term goals. How this attitude can affect the outcome of your goal. Science only knows a little of building grit and no one knows how exactly it is built up, but the best way to build up grit, especially in kids is "growth mindset", the ability to learn can change with your effort. Grit is built upon ourselves and in order to be grittier, we should test ourselves and be willing to fail and do it again by learning from the past mistakes.

# **SPEECH CONTENT**

**People hope to achieve success, but how can we really gain this success? Angela Duckworth shared in her speech about how we can get success by using the strongest predictor of success, grit. She went through various observations and social experiments to come up with the conclusion that it is grit that can predict who will be successful. As she discussed, grit is perseverance for long-term goals. She broke the stigma of using IQ, talent, physical looks, and other measures people use in order to determine if one will be successful or not. A shocking thing about grit is that we only know a little about how it is formed, even science cannot determine how it is built. As the speaker receives questions from parents about how to make their kids grittier, they can implement a growth mindset. Our mindset, passion, and perseverance is what will lead us to success.**

# **INTRODUCTION**

**The speech started with Angela Duckworth explaining and pertaining to her life story in how she discovered her grit. She stated the fact how IQ was not the difference between her best and worst students. From teaching mathematical problems into finding the purpose of grit in students, she was able to perceive how we need education to be more understanding to students in learning in a motivational perspective. She also shared how even her smartest students failed and their IQ was not in a stratospheric level wherein they are labeled as geniuses. Her study at first, she said how it depends much more in a pupil's ability to learn quickly and easily.**

# BODY

In this TED Talk, Angela Lee Duckworth defined Grit as “The power of passion and perseverance”. She also explains that a significant predictor of success is “Grit” or “Passion and perseverance for very long-term goals.” This characteristic is evidenced in school-aged students, military cadets, sales people, teachers working in challenging neighborhoods, and other contexts as more important than talent (IQ) for success. As she stated in her talk, IQ was not the only difference between her best and worst students. Some of her strongest performers did not have stratospheric IQ scores. And some of her smartest kids weren’t doing so well. And that got her thinking, the kinds of things you need to learn in seventh grade math, are sure hard. However, she was firmly convinced that these concepts are not impossible to learn. She’s assured that every one of her students could learn the material if they worked hard and long enough.

**After she teached for several more years, she came to the conclusion that what we need in education is a much better understanding of students and learning from a motivational perspective, from a psychological point of view. In education, as Angela Duckworth stated, the one thing we know how to measure best is IQ. But what if doing well in school and in life depends on much more than your ability to learn quickly and easily?**

**That's when she planned to leave the classroom and went to a graduate school to become a psychologist. Now, she started studying kids and adults in all kinds of super challenging settings, including West Point military cadets, national spelling bee contestants, and rookie teachers in different schools, and in every study, her question was, who is successful here and why?**

**In all those different contexts, one characteristic emerged as a significant predictor of success. And it wasn't social intelligence. It wasn't good looks, physical health, and it wasn't IQ. It was grit.**

**Now, in my own opinion, by means of how I understood the talk. Grit is passion and perseverance for long-term goals. I recognize Grit as a crucial factor to the learning process. Grit is the quality that allows an individual to work hard and maintain focus not just for days, weeks, or months but for years.**

**Furthermore, after a few years when she started studying grit in the Chicago public schools. She asked thousands of high school students to take grit questionnaires, and then waited around more than a year to see who would graduate. Turns out that grittier kids were significantly more likely to graduate, even when Angela Duckworth matched them on every characteristic she could measure. So it's not just at West Point or the National Spelling Bee that grit matters. It's also in school, especially for kids at risk for dropping out. In addition to how I understood her talk, talent doesn't make you gritty. And so far, the best idea I've heard about building grit in kids is something called "growth mindset".**

**This is an idea developed at Stanford University by Carol Dweck, and it is the belief that the ability to learn is not fixed, that it can change with your effort. As Angela Duckworth said, Dr. Dweck has shown that when kids read and learn about the brain and how it changes and grows in response to challenges, they're much more likely to persevere when they fail, because they don't believe that failure is a permanent condition.**

**Many of us have probably experienced this at one time or another. The fear of failing can be immobilizing, as it can cause us to do nothing, and therefore resist moving forward. But when we allow fear to stop our forward progress in life, we're likely to miss some great opportunities along the way. That's what I learned in her talk, the fact that being a gritty person can avoid situations like this from happening.**

# CONCLUSION

**With regards to the main points that have been mentioned before in her speech, the speaker ended her speech by informing the audience first about the best way of building grit is by what she called “Growth Mindset”. Where she states that it is a belief of ability to learn things is not fix and it can change with people's effort. And that she also said that a growth mindset is a great way of building grit but then they crave for more. Then, she eventually ended her speech by reminding people to seek for better ideas, strong institutions and by pointing out that people should allow themselves to fail, to be wrong and to start over again with lessons that they have learned in order to test whether they are successful enough. And lastly she ended her speech by saying “ We need to be griddy about getting our kids to be griddier.”**

# DELIVERY SKILLS AND TECHNIQUES

Based on the speech of Angela Lee Duckworth she portrayed her delivery skills quite well. However, there's one skill we think she is kind of lacking and that is her gestures. The way she talked was amazing but the way she moved whilst talking was kind of disturbing. Angela Duckworth's manner of standing was rather stiff. She wasn't moving freely, instead, she poised in one place and that gave off an impression as if she was not confident in her talk. For us at least, talking and moving from place to place shows that you are confident in what you are doing. But furthermore, she did well, due to the reason that in her speech, she pointed out a lot of factors that can determine the success of an individual. Though one of the characteristics that emerge in her speech is the Grit.



**Where in fact she really persuaded the audience of the importance of grit. She uses a lot of figures of speech to describe things such as “grit sticking to our future that works really hard to make a future into a reality”. The speaker also stated in her speech that for them to be able to measure grit they deploy a self-reported questionnaire or known as “Grit Scale” They utilized this to evaluate focus effort and interest as they wait overtime. Moreover, she enlightens her audience by comparing different characteristics such as family income and standardized achievement test scores and that can give encouragement to the kids that are at risk of dropping out.**



# **BIAS AND PREJUDICE**

**The speaker Angela Lee Duckworth did not show any biases to the students who have higher IQ than the students who have more grit in them, as she wants to know what is really the difference between the two different groups and conducted a study in order to show that there is a difference for two groups of students and with facts not with her Beliefs and observation only. She conducted and attended different events in order for her to find out who is more likely to be in advantage and disadvantage in different aspects in things between them. The speaker did not have any favorites but knowledge for every student for her to know their weaknesses and strengths if they really are thinking and focusing about their future or just going with the flow of their courses and have the quality of being a graduate student or being the dropped out one. She even stated that what we need in education is a much better understanding of students from a motivational and a psychological perspective. Instead of showing bias, the speaker broke the stereotype regarding the measures of success, the stereotypes of thinking that one's physical and psychological capacity is a determination of success and introducing something based on thorough observations and data.**

# **TED TALK REVIEW**

The purpose of the Ted Talk was mainly to let not only students but other people as well to realize how IQ is not all about having high scores and such major achievements. It is emphasized how your IQ can definitely affect characteristics in your growth, however, it is never always the path in being successful or smart. We have our own advantages and disadvantages in life so this is an eye opening topic to fellow students that are encountering their hardships and challenges regarding their studies. Grit itself is the passion and courage of the strength of one's character that every student should have to gain willpower to succeed. Moreover, this ted talk is a big encouragement to students in order to not pressure themselves too much when it comes to their IQ's as long as they have strived hard to earn their spot as learners and listeners of the society. Therefore, we would recommend this Ted Talk especially for those students who are struggling to find their strength and weaknesses within their sleeves. Due to the fact that this will help the students to perceive that failing is one way for them to learn from their mistakes, And that by starting again it is the process where they can see that they are growing together with the lesson that they have learned.

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CONSISTENCY OF EFFORT OVER THE  
LONG RUN IS EVERYTHING

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-Angela Lee Duckworth

