Blackhole Peer Help

There are no problems, only solutions

42 Staff pedago@42.fr

Summary: *Shall we talk about it?*

Contents

Chapter I

Foreword

```
I had a lot of failures.
I failed for, funny things that I failed...
A key primary schooltest for two times.
I failed three times for the middle schools.
[...]
You know for three years, I tried and failed in the universities.
So I applied for jobs for 30 times, got rejected.
I went for the police, they said, no you are not good
I went for KFC, when KFC came to China, came to my city,
24 people went for the job. 23 people accepted. I was the only one who
got rejected. We went to the police, five people, four of them accepted.
I was the only guy they did not proceed with.
[...]
So to me, being turned down, rejected....
Oh by the way, I told you that I applied for Harvard, for ten times,
rejected.
I knew I'd be rejected I just wanted to see..
[...]
I think we have to get used to it. We're not that good, even today
We still have a lot of people reject us.
[...]
I don't think in this world, there are a lot of people being rejected
more than 30 times. The only thing is, we never give up. We're like Forrest
Gump, we keep on fighting. We keep on changing ourself. We don't complain.
Whether you are successful or not successful, I found that when people,
when they finish the job, if they make the mistake or the failure,
if they always complain about the others, this guy will never come back.
[...]
If the guy only checks himself: "Yeah, something's wrong with me here,
something's wrong with me there.", this guy has hope.
```

Jack Ma, Founder of Alibaba.com.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iuTtbo7ZEeU

Chapter II

Introduction

Your Blackhole quest ended recently, and the reasons why this happened may be many and varied.

Sometimes, organisation is the issue. Maybe you couldn't find a pace and/or work settings that suit you? Perhaps you're feeling helpless facing a task that seems overwhelming? Maybe it's been a few days since your project "will be done by tomorrow"? Maybe you're fooling yourself into thinking that you understand what you're working on, while, really, most of the work you hand in for your solo projects comes from your mates? Perhaps you're spending more time talking about coding your projects than actually doing it?

Sometimes, isolation is the reason why. You can't reach out to other people, or stay in a group? Perhaps you're afraid of being disliked or mocked? Or you're afraid you will be unable to communicate properly? Or you're paralysed by the thought that everybody else is gifted, and you're not?

Sometimes, sadly, the reasons are more personal. External events have kept you away from your projects: health, family, finances, . . .

The good news is, failure can be a formidable drive for improvement. So let's talk about this one.

Chapter III

Goals

Simply failing, without reflecting upon it, is of course useless. This project's goal is to give you an opportunity to think about the causes that led you to this failure and to draw the necessary conclusions.

To this end, we invite you to discuss this situation with somebody who is also facing failure, with sympathy, intelligence and respect.

Put a problem into words is the first step towards finding a solution.

Chapter IV

General instructions

- It is up to you, and you only, to decide whether you want to talk about your more private issues or not. We do not ask it from you here, and you should never feel strong-armed into talking about something personal that makes you uncomfortable. Your private life, your choice;

- Even if you have a PhD in psychology from the best college in the world, at 42 you're not a shrink, you're a student. The point here is to make a factual assessment of your situation, or that of the person in front of you, in order to learn from it, not to start a therapy. Of course it's always a good idea to begin a therapy, but only with qualified staff. 42 is not the place for that;

- For these meetings, we use the logistics of an ordinary project, mainly for the evaluation. Please bear in mind that the notions of "validation", "failure", "evaluation", "evaluated student", "examiner" and so on are irrelevant in this context;

- Nothing to hand in, no grade, no experience points to gain, no correction points to spend;

- In ordet to "validate" this project, only one "evaluation" is necessary. The final grade is always 100 and does not mean anything;

- The students who can "evaluate" you on this project all chose to do it themselves at some point in the past with a registration to blach-hole-peer-helper;

- If you are the "evaluated" student, this discussion is about you. If you are the "examiner", it's about the person in front of you. Of course, we encourage you to discuss and connect as much as possible, but the assessment is to be made about the "evaluated" student, whatever that word means in this context;

- It is very much possible - and acceptable - to meet and "evaluate" several people;

- You don't have to have this discussion in one of the clusters, in front of a computer. However, you have to fill in the scale together, particularly the comment section, that will be a record of your conversation and a useful monitoring tool of your progression for us, if need be;

- It was useless to ask to meet one of your peers if you don't seize this opportunity to

talk about your difficulties. Participation in this conversation wasn't mandatory, all you had to do was click the "continue without meeting a peer" option if you didn't want to tackle your issues this way;

- There is a `Concerning Situation` flag on the scale. If you both agree, you can use it to notify the Pedago Team that the "evaluated" student is in a situation that requires our intervention. Please, do not misuse it.

Chapter V

Peer-Help

You will find here the main axes of conversation that we encourage you to talk about during your conversation. Some of these questions are purposefully straightforward, in order to be thought-provoking. These are based on the assumption that you are not in complicated personal situation that prevents you from pursuing your studies properly.

V.1 Motivation

Let's be honnest about this. In order to succeed at anything, one needs genuine motivation. Why did you join 42? What are you looking for here? What is your purpose? Was it your choice? Is 42 the right school for you? Are you compatible with its peer-learning method? Do you enjoy challenges? Discovering things on your own? Be autonomous? Do you like studying at 42 or just the idea of it?

V.2 Attendance time at 42

You will need passion and commitment to succeed at 42. It is practicaly impossible to succeed here without putting in long hours. 42 is a full-time higher education curriculum that gives you the means and the network to become highly skilled stakeholders of tomorrow's digital world. Do you think you work hard enough? Why, or why not? Can you do better? How?

V.3 Output

Spending time at 42 is a good start, but you also have to make this presence time useful. How do you split your time spent at 42? Where do you spend most of your time here? Why?

In the clusters, logged on your session, how do you allocate your time? Do you spend more time on your IDE or on your browser? Why? How could you improve your productivity? What do you think about the phrases "practice makes perfect" and "one doesn't learn how to ride a bike by watching someone else riding it"?

V.4   Peer-pedagogy

Our educational model may throw you off balance and make you face your responsibilities within our community. Do you really play by the rules? Do you perceive peer-evaluations as a constraint, or even a waste of time? Do you understand why these interactions are important? And, while we're at it, is the code you hand in truly yours? Are you capable or rewriting your old projects from scratch? Do you fully understand them? Have you ever cheated? Why? When you're struggling, what do you do? Does it work? When someone else is struggling nearby, what do you do? Why? Does it work?

V.5   Goals

Whether in the short, middle or long run, it's important to set goals. Whether it is to attend at least 3 exams per month, to do your internship in a specific company or to get to level 21 in 3 years, goals drive motivation. Do you have goals? If not, this is a perfect time to think about it. If yes, are you progressing towards these goals? Do you think they are accurately calibrated?

V.6   Personal situation

As written in the General Instructions section, it is entirely up to you to talk about your personal situation during this conversation - or not. However, there are various degrees of gravity and responsibility when it comes to delicate personal situations, and talking about it with somebody else can help you uncover a solution. If, and only if, you are feeling comfortable enough to address your personal issues with the person in front of you, you can answer these questions. Do you think it is possible to improve your situation? Do you know about the procedures, services and key contact-persons that could help you? You can use the "Concerning Situation" flag on the associated scale if you think that the staff should know about the "evaluated" student's situation.

V.7   Your conclusions

Whatever the reasons are, good or bad, that led you to this point, what are the actions that you can now undertake to improve your situation? If you consider that you have already taken action, how could you be even more efficient?

There is no secret here, if you want your curriculum to be a success, you need to be committed and to gather the means for it. No-one can do it for you, it's about your future, your choices, your success.

Chapter VI

Turn-in and peer-evaluation

No git repo or moulinette for this project. There will be only one correction, that will be automatically set on your account.