

There are many things I have yet to encounter or understand, and frankly, most things I will never meet or understand. One thing I have been lucky to realize at a young age is the meaning of success. In the mainstream of Materialism, it is effortless to get caught up in the common misconception that success is to have the newest, best everything. Whenever this happens to us, we at the same time sacrifice everything to acquire material goods regardless of how far down the rabbit-hole it takes us. I remember this student in particular, living across the hall from my dorm room. He would always call his parents whenever he needed something, never to check-in, or ask how they were doing. He regularly said he "needed" this or that. The duration of his happiness only lasted from when he swiped his parents' credit card to when he unpacked the box it came in. After that, the item would soon be en route to becoming obsolete once again. Watching Matt go about life was the same as watching capitalistic groupthink mentality come to life. It was a never-ending vicious cycle of wants and more wants fostered by the pressure of his society. The sad part about this is: he was only a microcosm of Materialism's detrimental effects to our society. A macrocosm of Materialism would be fast fashion, and the waste it produces. Fast-fashion brands like "Zara" will come out with new styles every couple of weeks at low prices to satisfy the "needs" of materialistic fashion-trend seekers at the cost of the environment; in with the new out with the old. I did my best to avoid it all.

I want something that others can not take away from me, perhaps intricate knowledge on a particular subject, the ability to skillfully play an instrument or sport, perhaps the ability to help others, or as simple as a healthy physique.