Written Assignment Week7

University of the People

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My experience that I did not achieve my goal is when I took the first examination to enter my university at the age of 17 years old. As I was in soccer club at my high school, I did not pay any attention to studying for the university. After finishing a final tournament when I was third grade, the time left to me was only 5 months until the examination. I needed to start from thinking why I go to the university. What do I want to study? Do I want to go abroad? But I was not able to clarify my mind so picked up two universities because the certain departments hold an examination with two subjects; writing a paper and English. After my decision I put all my time on studying English and writing a paper. But the result was a failure. Therefore, I studied one more gap year to entire the university. Since I had 12 months until the next examination, I started from redefining the purpose of going to the university and set quantitative goal for each subject in the various term (short/mid/long). Then I made a new strategy to prevent the failure again. In the first trial, I did not spend much time on the reflection of what I studied, but just solved as much as problems I can. As I looked through my history of study, I realized I did not understand the essentials of the subjects but just remembered the answers or information around them. Therefore, I changed my learning style from the quantity-focused approach to the quality-focused approach. In the end, I was able to pass all the second-year examinations with high scores and some of the university offered a scholarship.

Based on the opposite experiences above, what I learned as the key difference is the goal setting and the approach I took to the goals. Firstly, the goal setting should clarify the reason why I should achieve it. In my experience, as I was not sure about the motivation to study and enter the university, I did not progress to the right direction. After setting motivational goal which links to the life mission, I felt I was moving to the right way. Secondly, the goal should be numerically measured. After setting a motivational goal, the goal should be expressed in a subjective way to exclude a room for interpretation. If the goal does not have a clear numerical measurement, the degree of achievement and the amount efforts to make can be unstable, which resulted in the damage of efforts to make. Therefore, good goals have numerical measurement with no room for subjectivity that lead a right-directed efforts, no matter what situations I am in.

On the basis of what I defined, here are three goals in my life. The short-term goal is to get the degree of computer science at UoP without strong pursue on the high GPA based on the motivation to understand the depth of computer. The middle-term one is to work in the US as an infrastructure engineer for tier-1 IT giants such as GAFAM based on the motivation to make more money right now. The long-term goal is to become CIO/CTO who does understand the technology deeply and respect engineers with the motivation to change Japanese IT culture. Not all of my goals above are with numeric goals, but all of them can be measured with objective status. These are my good goals setting.

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