

Handout for the essay assignment, "The importance of failure." (500 words)

To complete this assignment you will need high-speed access to the Internet so that you can view and hear a series of videos. Go to www.cshof.ca and click on "Lessons and Learning" and then on "Students." You will find a list of honoured members' videos here. As you view each of the following, take notes on what they say about failure and/or learning from mistakes, and note the sport the honoured member is associated with. When you hear a particularly impressive quote that you feel will work well for you in your essay, transcribe it word for word and use it as a quote in your essay. When you do this, indicate in your reference that you found the quote on the CSHOF website.

Review video segments for each of the following:

- Ron Lancaster (Learning from Mistakes)
- Russ Jackson (Learning from Mistakes)
- Bill O'Donnell (Learning from Mistakes)
- Kurt Browning (Learning from Mistakes)
- Bob Bedard (Learning from Mistakes)
- Brian Orser (Learning from Mistakes)
- Petra Burka (Learning from Mistakes)

In each case, try to find quotes that support different reasons why losing or failure teaches more than winning or success. For example, in one case you might find evidence that losing is important to learn humility; in others, the lesson is to learn to analyze your loss—which you would more likely do than analyzing your win.

When you write your essay, it is important that you base your position on your research and not on your personal opinion on the topic question. You might consider the opening sentence, "In this paper I will argue that it is possible to learn more from failure or from one's mistakes than from winning."

If possible, have another person read your paper before you take it to class to help you avoid typographical and other small errors or to offer suggestions on how to make it a better essay.

Your teacher will ask for volunteers to speak on this essay, at which time you can feel free to present your own views rather than the position you took in your essay, if these are different.