



Thesis: Perseverance is the ability to keep fighting for what you believe in, but it is best defined by the virtues of courage, determination, and hope.

Audience Analysis: *Quite a few members of the class expressed a value in the characteristic of perseverance in the introduction of a keynote speaker speeches. This presentation will inspire others to have perseverance in what they do by focusing on the key qualities of perseverance in addition to using examples of people who exemplify these key qualities.*

I. Introduction

- A. Hook: "You may encounter many defeats, but you must not be defeated. In fact, it may be necessary to encounter the defeats, so you can know who you are, what you can rise from, how you can still come out of it." This is a quote from Maya Angelou regarding perseverance (Angelou 1).
- B. Background: Perseverance is the ability to continue to fight for what you believe in no matter how bad you have lost.
 - 1. According to Stacy Thompson from the Life Support Institute in San Diego, perseverance is the ability to see things through until the end, regardless of the roadblocks we face.
 - 2. It allows us to accomplish our goals and achieve great things in life (Thompson 1).
 - 3. Perseverance was a key trait of civil rights activists during the civil rights movement in the 1960's.
 - 4. In "Civil Rights Movement," the History.com staff informs that many of the civil rights leaders during this era risked - and even lost - their lives fighting for freedom and equal rights in areas like voting and use of public facilities

(“Civil Rights Movement” 1).

- C. Thesis: Perseverance is the ability to keep fighting for what you believe in, but it is best defined by the virtues of courage, determination, and hope.



Rosa Parks

Montgomery bus boycott

II. Courage

- A. Courage can be defined as the ability to be brave and stand up for your beliefs in a way that others do not have the will to do.
- B. “Rosa Louise McCauley Parks Biography” from Bio highlights the perseverance of Rosa Parks by explaining the moment of courage she faced during the time of Jim Crow.
 - 1. She remained in her seat when asked to give it up to a white passenger, knowing that it was against the law, because she was tired of having to give in.
 - 2. Sparked the Montgomery bus boycott which eventually ended bus segregation in Montgomery.
 - 3. Spurred a national movement to end segregation in public facilities which led to an effort to gain equal rights for colored people during the 1960’s (“Rosa Louise McCauley Parks Biography” 1).

Courage on 9/11

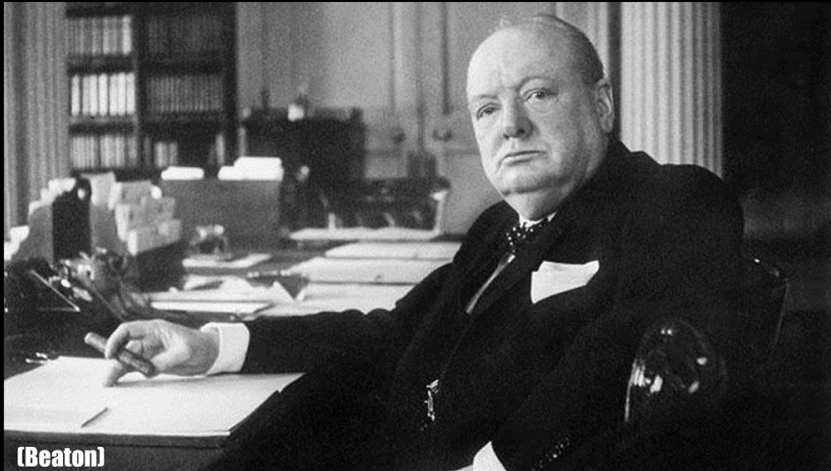


- C. New York police officer Joseph Lutrario recounts his moment of courage after the attack on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.
1. When he first arrived, his initial response was to run in and get as many people as he could, but when a teacher approached him and asked to help her carry children from a day care center.
 2. After all the children had been moved, he ran into the south tower even though he knew the building was unstable. The building eventually collapsed, and he was buried in rubble, but he was able to escape with the help of firemen and paramedics at the site.
 3. Many people were able to escape because of the bravery and courage of people like him (Lutrario 1).
- D. In another example of someone who was courageous on September 11, 2001, steel welder Jack Murray remembers his bravery during the chaos on that fateful day.
1. Murray remembers going to a bar to watch the news on the attack. While he is there, he is asked by one of the owners to go help people that might have been caught in the debris.
 2. When he got there, he remembers his bravery in going into the fires and collapsing debris to burn steel in an attempt to save people that might have been buried.
 3. Even though he was unable to find anyone, his courage allowed him to persevere in the struggle to rescue people that were in the World Trade Center during the attack (Murray 1).

- E. Through the acts of courage these people committed, they were able to persevere in a fight against the injustices of their times.

Winston Churchill

keep out the Nazis



(Beaton)

III. Determination

- A. Determination is a the quality of someone who is relentless in achieving a goal and will stick to a task no matter the obstacle.
- B. "Sir Winston Leonard Spencer-Churchill" from Bio emphasizes Prime Minister Winston Churchill's perseverance by explaining his determination during World War II.
 - 1. Determined to protect his country from the invading Nazis and lead his country to victory ("Sir Winston Leonard Spencer-Churchill Biography" 1).
 - 2. Reinforced British arms to keep the Nazis out soon after the beginning of WWII.
 - 3. Even after France was captured and Britain was left alone against the onslaught of the Nazis, Churchill continued to resist the Nazis and formed an alliance with the U.S. and the Soviet Union.
 - 4. Once the war had ended, Churchill continued to work for peace and the independence of Britain from European coalitions ("Sir Winston Leonard Spencer-Churchill Biography" 5).

Women's rights

Marshall and Anthony



(Library of Congress)

- C. Joyce A. Baugh from the Central Michigan University implores that Thurgood Marshall exhibited determination through his consistent advocating of gender equality (Baugh 1).
 - 1. Worked for gender equality through his work with gender discrimination cases where he consistently struck down organizations that were believed to exhort gender discrimination (Baugh 2).
 - 2. In abortion cases, he almost always ruled in favor in abortion rights or in favor of women who were not allowed to hold a certain role because of anti-abortion notions (Baugh 2).
- D. In "Susan B. Anthony Biography," Bio illustrates the determination of Susan B. Anthony to procure equal rights for all people ("Susan B. Anthony Biography" 1).
 - 1. Anthony was devoted to fixing social issues in her community and originally began her work for equality in the anti-slavery movement that lead up to the Civil War.
 - 2. During her work as an abolitionist, Anthony met Elizabeth Cady Stanton, with whom she would form a anti-alcohol distribution society and a woman's rights committee in New York.
 - 3. After the Civil War, Anthony moved on to working for women's rights, were she tirelessly devoted her time convince others to promote women's suffrage. Though the amendment that allowed women to vote didn't get added until fourteen years after her death, the determination of women like Anthony is what ultimately led to the amendment's legislation in 1920 ("Susan B. Anthony Biography" 2-3).
- E. Because of the these people's determination, they were able to get past all the obstacles that prevented them from reaching their goals.

Hope



(Karen's Treasures)

IV. Hope

- A. Someone who has hope is someone who wants something to be changed or become true and believes that something will be change or become true.
- B. Eliza Gray from Time magazine describes perseverance by writing about Edith Windsor's hope for the acceptance of equal rights for gay couples and advancement of the gay movement (Gray 4).
 - 1. When Windsor moved to New York City in the 1950's, she was hopeful that she would be accepted and able to find a spouse in the vast community of gays found in the New York. Eventually, she met Thea Spyer and they were engaged (Gray 2).
 - 2. Later on, Windsor and Spyer would join the gay movement and would be married in Canada in 2007 but faced an obstacle when Spyer died from a heart condition two years later.
 - 3. When Windsor had been given an estate tax, she went to refund to have it refunded on the grounds that spouses are exempt from the estate tax but was denied because her marriage was not recognized by the federal government due to the Defense of Marriage Act.
 - 4. Outraged, Windsor went to court in 2010 hopeful that her claim that the Defense of Marriage Act violated the constitutional right of equal protection would be supported. Two years later, U.S. Second Circuit of Appeals ruled in her favor, opening up many benefits and protections for gay couples in the U.S. (Gray 3).

1. “Annelies Marie Frank Biography” from Bio explains the hope of the Jewish girl Anne Frank during the time of the Nazis (“Annelies Marie Frank Biography” 1).
 2. Anne and her family went into hiding when the family was summoned to work at a Nazi work camp in Germany. They continued to stay in hiding for the next two years until they were captured in 1944 (“Annelies Marie Frank Biography” 3).
 3. Throughout this time, Anne wrote about her faith and hope in a journal - that would later become famous worldwide - despite the dire situation which she faced (“Annelies Marie Frank Biography” 5).
- D. Similarly, in "Malala Yousafzai Biography," Bio depicts the hope of the Pakistan girl Malala Yousafzai who was shot by the Taliban for speaking out against them ("Malala Yousafzai Biography" 1).
 1. Malala was an advocate of girls' education who spoke out against the Taliban after they began to attack girls' schools in an attempt to deny the girls of an education ("Malala Yousafzai Biography" 2)
 2. Later on, Malala was shot by a Taliban gunman on a bus ride home from school. She was rushed to Birmingham, England in order to receive medical attention.
 3. After multiple surgeries, she was able to survive and continue to receive an education in England. Even after all that had happened, she continued to speak out against the Taliban and promote girls' education rights in the hopes that eventually the Taliban would allow girls to receive an education. This year, she received a Nobel Peace Prize for her perseverance in fighting against the Taliban ("Malala Yousafzai Biography" 3).
- E. The hope of these women allowed them to persevere and ignore the pain and suffering they experienced in order to reach the goals they longed for.



V. Conclusion

- A. Recap Thesis: Perseverance, or the ability to continue to fight for what you believe in, is marked by the virtues of courage, determination, and hope.
- B. Recap Main Points
 - 1. Courage is the ability to be brave
 - 2. Determination is the the ability to stick to a task
 - 3. Hope is the want and belief for something to change or become true
- C. Return to Hook: So, like Angelou noted, we may “encounter defeats,” but we “must never be defeated” (Angelou 1). By standing up and rising from our defeats, we not only improve our own lives, but can improve the lives of others. If we can all encounter our personal defeats, we can help others encounter their own defeats and continue to persevere in this unfair game we call “Life.”

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