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Success is not final, failure is not fatal,
it's the struggle that counts

Outline

Introduction

Anecdote: Thomas Edison's invention of bulb after many failures

Thesis statement: Success offers no guarantee of permanence, and failure carries no finality; it is the enduring courage to learn, adapt, and persistence and perseverance that defines true achievement.

2. Success is a pause, not a destination; failure is a lesson, not the end.

3. Success is temporary and requires continuous effort

a. Success breeds complacency if treated as permanent

(Case study: Nokia's early mobile phone dominance collapsed due to complacency)

(Book: Stephen Cohen, 7 Habits of Highly Effective people)

b. Changing definitions of success

(WEF "Future of Jobs" Report (2020) → adaptation and resilience more important than static success)

c. Success can create illusions

(Book: Ryan Holiday: The Obstacle is the Way → Obstacles keep leaders humble and growing)

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4. Failure is a stepping stone to success.

a. Failure as feedback, not defeat
(Edison famous remarks)

b. Failure builds resilience
(Nelson Mandela's long imprisonment shaped his leadership)

c. Failure often precedes breakthrough
(JK Rowling, Steve Jobs and other innovators)

5. Continuing forward is the ultimate strength

a. Persistence is stronger than talent
(Angela Duckworth, Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance)

b. Resilience turns setbacks into strength
(APA Report on Resilience 2020)

c. Leadership is proven in adversity
(Winston Churchill during WWII)

d. Courage sustains innovation
(Elon Musk SpaceX faced multiple failures before eventual success)

e. Endurance shapes lasting legacies
(Victor Frankl, Man's Search for Meaning)

6. Conclusion.

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The Essay:

When asked about thousand of failed attempts to invent the light bulb, Thomas Edison famously remarked, "I have not failed, I have just found 10,000 ways that ~~how~~ will not work." His persistence reflects a profound truth: failure is not fatal, and success is not final. Edison's journey reminds us that setbacks are not the end, but stepping stones, and even great achievements must be followed by continued effort. Success and failure are often seen as opposites, but in reality, both are temporary phases in the larger journey of life. Success, no matter how remarkable, does not guarantee permanence, it can quickly fade if one becomes complacent or stops striving for improvement. Likewise, failure, however painful, is not a final verdict but an opportunity to learn, adapt and grow stronger. What truly defines individuals, leaders, and societies is not a single victory or defeat but the resilience to rise after falling and the determination to keep moving forward despite obstacles. History and psychology remind us that human progress is built on persistence, those who endure through setbacks ultimately shape the world more than those who give up after failure or rest on the comfort of success. Success offers no guarantee of permanence and failure carries no finality, it is the enduring courage to learn, adapt and persistence and perseverance

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that defines the achievement -

Conclusion:

The journey through success and failure is ultimately a journey of character. Achievements may bring recognition, and setbacks may cause disappointment, but both are transient. What gives life its true meaning is the strength to endure, to stand firm when victories fade, and to rise again when defeats weigh heavy. The resilience to continue despite uncertainty transforms ordinary lives into extraordinary ones and fleeting accomplishments into enduring legacies. From leaders who carried nations through crisis to innovators who turned rejections into breakthroughs, history testifies that courage, not circumstance, is the decisive factor. Even psychology and philosophy affirm that persistence, not perfection, shapes human progress. Thus, the lasting measure of greatness is not found in a single moment of triumph or loss, but in the steady courage to continue walking forward when both success and failure have passed.