

## ***The Pursuit of Happiness* Essay Contest**

**First Place Winner: Aeron Glover, Junior, Whitehaven High School**

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Face the truth: Humans born into this world do not innately possess the skills needed to overcome obstacles; instead, tests, trials, and peculiar experiences provide these “tools of a successful life.” We manufacture these tools through the pursuit of goals and through the triumphs over our obstructions. *The Pursuit of Happiness* displays the core quality needed to evoke successful overcoming of obstacles. Relentless confidence in yourself is the master key to illuminate your blackouts in life.

Under similar, unfortunate hindrances, I would create an assemblage along comparable lines to that of which the film provided. I would need inner-strength—my armor to torment and agony. An optimistic view of my true purpose for existence and a willingness to push forward against the odds of the world would forge the self-belief to sledgehammer through the walls of negativity.

Seldom does the world stop to cure the problems of a single, seemingly nonexistent individual. This person has a blocked vent that only happiness can filter; however, contentment only comes through hellish endurance. I understand that the world won't always show me “niceness,” and I welcome this challenge with amusement. But why welcome this?...because this is the drill that drives the screw of determination. Even if people get pleasure out of annihilating my joy and knocking my spirit down, I welcome the

opportunity to rise above adversity. But why?...because this opens my eyes to the true meaning of “destiny etched in stone.” My reaction disproves other peoples’ beliefs about my future. I control my future. If society tells me, “You will never have anything; you will always be a failure,” this attitude will spark a colossal effort to prove my determination and certainty.

Beams break and fuses blow at the most inconvenient of times. Some power outages seem too large to overcome and darken hope; some just flicker for a moment. In the circuitry of life, all eventually necessitate resolving. I would surely use my learned behaviors to emerge the victor of the struggles. The world’s supposed “incompetent populous” achieves extraordinary feats by confidently overcoming extraordinary obstacles, boldly putting forth extraordinary actions, and assuredly anticipating extraordinary results. After beating the odds, you achieve happiness by unlocking confidence. Happiness comes when “you have” fulfilled your purpose in life; conversely, the usage of the proper tools constructs your purpose in “your pursuit of happiness.”