



An Invitational Education®  
*Member Resource*

<b>Title:</b>	Give Yourself Permission to Fail
<b>Shared by:</b> (Your Name, State, Country)	Judy Lehr Guarino, St. Augustine, FL Craig Martin
<b>Email Address:</b>	jbguarino@gmail.com
<b>Type of Activity or Resource:</b>	Activity
<b>Objective:</b>	To increase the awareness of the participants that failure is a part of life and that many people we might consider successful have experienced major failure in their lives
<b>Recommended Age Group:</b>	Middle school-adult
<b>Materials Needed:</b>	
<b>Time:</b>	40 minutes
<b>Additional Notes:</b>	

**All Rights Reserved:** This Invitational Education Member Resource remains the property of the author and is intended for use in educational settings. No portion of this document may be used for commercial purposes or reproduced for any other purpose without written permission from the author or copyright holder.

## Handout 11.A

### Give Yourself Permission to Fail

1. He ran for political office seven times and was defeated each time.
2. She wanted to be a performer; she went to drama school in New York. After several months, the school wrote her mother that she had no acting ability at all. They said "take her back home."
3. He wanted to publish a children's book. It was rejected by publishers 54 times.
4. She wanted to be a leader. When she ran for president of her college class, she lost. She ran for the Texas legislature two years later and lost. (Barbara Jordon)
5. He was quiet and uninvolved in high school. He flunked out of college. Acting was a way out of not knowing what to do.
6. He wanted to be a military leader or a great statesman. As a student, he failed three times in his exams to enter the Military Academy.
7. In trying to solve a problem, she tried 487 experiments, all of which failed.
8. He wanted to be an outstanding businessman. He wanted his own candy store. At 19 he tried to operate one. It failed. He went to New York and tried to manufacture candy. That failed too.
9. He wanted to be a writer. Never in eight years of writing did he have an article accepted for publication. He had literally hundreds of rejection slips. At age 37, all he had was \$.18 in his pocket and two cans of sardines to eat.
10. He wanted to be an outstanding businessman. At age 52 he had been selling milkshake mixers for years, which had put him \$100,000 in debt. His other jobs included selling paper cups for 17 years, playing the piano in a nightclub, and selling real estate in Florida. He had diabetes, arthritis, had lost his gallbladder and most of his thyroid gland.
11. He was cut from the high school J.V. basketball team.

12. In sports, he struck out 1,330 times in baseball.
13. He wanted to sketch and create cartoons. He applied for a job with a Kansas City newspaper. After looking at his work, the editor said, "To be frank with you, it's easy to see from these sketches that you have no talent."
14. He failed to make his high school baseball team's traveling squad as a freshman. The L.A. Dodgers thought of him as a relief pitcher. He gave up 20 runs in seven innings in the minor leagues.
15. He talks with a lisp. He was below average as a football player. He wears thick-lens glasses. He is small in stature.
16. His father left him at age six. He was cut from the Houston Oilers because he was too slow and too small.
17. He was 5'3" tall. He had to be on his high school's wrestling team in the ninth grade to win a letter. He was considered too short to play pro basketball.
18. She was born out of wedlock. She was sent to a juvenile detention home at age 13. She ate to feel better about her problems and weighed over 200 pounds.
19. He, his four brothers, and one sister ate rice three times a day. His family would move from place to place in New York because it was cheaper than paying rent. He worked in movies at age five to support his family. He was the boy in the Buster Brown shoe ads.
20. He was raised in an orphanage. He never finished college. He put a \$75 down payment on his first business.
21. When she was four years old she was struck by pneumonia, scarlet fever, and polio. She nearly died and lost her ability to walk. Her brothers and sisters massaged her legs five times a day.