

"I can accept failure, everyone fails at something. But I can't accept NOT trying."

Nobody is perfect, everyone falls down sometimes and that's okay. What's not okay is giving up and not getting back up again. When was the last time you failed at something? Some people say that success is what makes a good life, but that's not the case at all. Most people in fact shutdown after failing one or two times. Everyone was born with their own special abilities and talents. Most of the time you have to try new things and fail at them to learn and discover your special abilities. Once people recognize their abilities and work hard their chances of success increase.

The first main aspect of the Rotary Four Way Test is **Is it the truth?** Yes indeed it is the truth. I have gone through some hard times in my life, and know that there are more to come. I've wanted to give up so many times, but what good would giving up do me? None at all. It is important to confront your failures and learn from them. I've failed during many basketball games. My teammates have relied on me to block or take a shot and many times I've failed to do so. But instead of just hanging my head and giving up I tried harder and kept going. Also in field hockey when I would have a break away and take a shot, I would fail and get the ball stolen. Also, my mom had to drop out of highschool so she could have me. Part of the reason why she sent me here is so I don't make the same mistake. My mom still tells me that I'll never be successful and it really tears me down, but I'm trying my hardest to be the best I can be and show her I won't be a failure. But in life you can't just give up and expect things to be handed to you. You have to keep trying, as someone once said "Fall down **seven** times but get up **eight**."

The second aspect of the Rotary Four Way test is **Is it fair to all concerned?**

Some may ask "What about failing is ever fair?" Well I would say that failing is a big necessity in life. We all need to fail sometimes to learn right from wrong, and our strengths and weaknesses. So failing is necessary on some levels, but if someone is constantly failing at everything and they want to give up then I think they just need to try 10x harder to find that one thing they are good at. For me it took awhile to realize my true strengths and abilities. Some people just need that extra push as a motivation to get up and keep trying. But it's all up to one's mindset, one has to believe that they can bounce back from a negative impact and keep going. It is essential to take a step back and analyze your situation, in hope that something good can come out of the situation.

The third standard of the Four Way Test is **Will it build goodwill and better friendships?** When we try something new we don't always do as well as we wish/hope too, and that's okay. In some aspects, failing in a friendship will entirely ruin it, depending who the friends are and what one failed at. Though in others it actually improves the relationship. Let's say you have a friend and that friend toxic and lies a lot, then they failed at being a good good friend to you. Let's say that you or your friend have a bad life habit that they've tried to stop, but just can't stop. Then you help and support them the best you can, that would help the person and maybe make a better friendship.

The fourth and final standard of the Four Way Test is **Will it be beneficial to all concerned?** We have to ask ourselves "Will I be able to bounce back if I fail?" In order for us to truly be successful we have to fail. Following that we have to be able to bounce

back and keep trying. If one falls and refuses to get back up so they don't have to fail any more, the only person they are failing is themselves. So, yes it is beneficial to all concerned.

"An arrow can only be shot by pulling it backwards. When life is dragging you back with difficulties, it means it's going to be launching you forward into something great. So just focus, and keep aiming." In life there are going to be so many people who influence you positively and negatively, but you get to choose how it affects your choices. People are always going to fail at something, but it doesn't mean that you have to stop pushing yourself. Never ever give up on doing what you love, because the moment you give up is the moment you truly fail. So let me ask you this, how are you going to learn from your failures to be successful?