

Put Your Shoulder Down

I had only my opinion when it came to what all is wrong with today's society. These opinions were solely based on my own experience. Now, what I have learned recently has just really solidified my thoughts. I believe that people determine their own stories and that the American Dream is alive if you want it to be. It doesn't matter where you came from you can always climb the social class ladder, but it depends on how bad you want it and your choices.

My own life experience has proved this to me, because I came from what most people think is the lower class. My mother worked three jobs at times and my father was not around. Some people think this spells disaster for a kid like me who lives in a no name town in Indiana. But that did not stop me from so far having a successful story. I graduated high school and join the United States Marine Corps. There I had a very great career for five years. I had made something of myself and I was the only person who could determine that I would become something. If I didn't want to be better then I could have just done what was required and been a no name person. Instead I got promoted quickly and made a name for myself. I tried to learn more and more all the time. I tried to be the best and at times I thought I was. I wasn't like a lot of people I knew having one or more kids before they were twenty-one. I was doing something to make myself better instead of sitting around at my mom's house working a worthless job.

Now, I am using my GI Bill to attend college and working a job that I like. I would now consider myself around the middle class area and only looking up. Once I get a degree, I will have to find that job that gets me there and I will not have the problems most people have these days. The problems being not having any good work experience, a college degree, debt, or a kiddo. These things will not stop someone from climbing the social ladder if they don't let it. They just might have to work a little bit harder to do so.

All of this is a great story but it is just one. But, there are so many more out there and how they defied the odds and have become world leaders. After watching *Waiting for Superman* and having discussions in class, it made me want to know how many people have had success from having nothing. From that you hear stories like Bill Gates, Oprah Winfrey, and Harold Simmons. Most of these individuals had their own sort of problems, but they never let it stop them from becoming more.

So, what is it that makes everyone think climbing the social ladder is impossible? I believe it is themselves. They don't understand that life gets rough but as long as you put your shoulder down and keep on moving, you will succeed, but that moment you give up or make a bad choice it could ruin your chances. It seems people give up way too easy and now everyone who hasn't been successful or haven't reach where they want to be make it seem like no one can do it.