

Second Place Prose – High School

The Struggles of a Perfectionist

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Grade: 10

School: Alanson Public Schools

Everyone is afraid of something.
Most people are afraid of something physical;
Such as snakes or spiders.
Others are afraid of things like heights.

You can get over things like that.
Physical things.

But when you can't actually go somewhere
And conquer your fear,
It hits you so much harder.
You can't get rid of that nagging fear;
Always popping up in your head.

Failure: "Lack of success."

That's what I'm afraid of.

The fear of failure.
That's kind of ironic;
Considering you're supposed to learn
From your mistakes,
And you go crazy from making mistakes.

That's why I write.

See,
There aren't any real rules to writing
So you can't very well fail at it.

People say, "It's your mindset."
People say, "You're overreacting over nothing."
People say, "Get over it. It's a mistake."

"Everybody makes mistakes."

Well, small mistakes are okay.
Like:
"Oh,
I grabbed a pen instead of a pencil."

Or:
"Oh,
I made a typo."

Those things are fixable. Or...
Maybe not. But they're small,
And you can forgive yourself easier.
But when failing a math test
Is going to affect the way I live
In like 10 years,

I've learned that freaking out over mistakes
Helps avoid them.
Sometimes.
And even then,
Not completely.

Because "everybody makes mistakes."

And that's basically what everything comes
down to.

Every decision you make
During the 4 years of high school
And the next 2 after that,
Really determine your entire future.

Whether you'll get a job,
A career.
Whether you'll get a significant other,
Partner in crime.

Whether you'll be homeless,
Alone.
Whether...
Whether ANYTHING!

Your decisions determine your life.

The Butterfly Effect.

We all have heard of this.

I have this... this fear!

And I see people go out and
Do the stupidest and craziest things
Those decisions HAVE to ruin their life.
In the future I mean.
Or maybe even now.
It doesn't.
Even.
Phase.
Them.

Walking through life like if you
Step too hard,
You'll wake Cerberus:

It's horrible.

At the end of the day,
I complain about my fears.
My fear of failure if I don't
Make the right decision.

But that's a bad decision, right?

So, let's try to be optimistic about this:

At least I know if I'm careful
With every step towards my future,
I'm more likely to have a higher chance of
Living a successful life.

Success:

"The accomplishment of an aim or purpose."