VALUE

inova
consultancy

Famous fails

3 steps to the activity realisation

Step 1 – preparation phase

Find some examples of 'famous fails' to give to the young people as a way of prompting them to change their mindset and move towards a 'growth mindset'. You will also need to provide them with some paper and pencils/pens.

Here are some examples you could use:
- **V** Steven Spielberg was rejected by the California School of Cinematic Arts twice and still became one of the most famous directors in movie history.
- **V** Bill Gates dropped out of Harvard and his first business Traf-O-Data failed. He then founded Microsoft and became the world's youngest self-made billionaire.
- **V** Michael Jordan famously said: "I've missed more than 9000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. 26 times, I've been trusted to take the game with a shot and miss. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed."

Step 2 – activity phase

Using the examples provided above (or your own examples), ask the young people to think about them. Encourage them to carefully think about these mistakes and ask what can be learnt from these stories. Whose story do they find the most inspiring and why?

Now ask them to think about some of their own failures. Ask them to write down their failures on the piece of paper and say why they think this was a failure- what went wrong? How did they respond? Do they wish they responded differently to the situation?

Step 3 – wrap up phase

Ask the young people to reflect upon their failure and ask them what they learnt from the situation.
Do they think they would react differently now if something similar were to happen again?
What positives can be taken from the experience?

Type of activity:
Perspective change exercise

Value of the activity:
Encouraging young people to view 'failure' as an opportunity to learn and grow. Asking them to reflect upon their own experiences and the stories of celebrities to highlight how failure is a part of life and how we react and respond to failure is what is the most important.

Timing:
Preparation: 5-10 min.
Implementation: 20 min.

Activity follow-up:
N/A

Other value case box components:
N/A

Value quoted:

Your notes:
- **V** ...
- **V** ...

Erasmus+