



DIRECTIONS: Read the essay. Then write a concluding section for it on the lines provided.

Shoot For the Stars

There are two main ways to settle for less than what you want, and both of them are bad ideas. Settling for less than what you want can leave you unhappy, angry or frustrated. Read on to learn what two pitfalls you should avoid.

One way of settling is to jump on the first opportunity that comes long. This can be a mistake because people sometimes do it just to fill an empty space in their lives. Being bored and lonely can make people get involved in relationships or jobs that are not really what they want, and this can keep them from being available to the things that they do really want.

Another way of “settling” is to do what you think that you ought to do, rather than what you really want to do. Sometimes the people around us can be a really strong influence, and they can talk us into taking classes, or pursuing majors, or taking jobs, or getting into relationships that aren’t what we really want to do. Oftentimes there are really good reasons for doing these things, and so we talk ourselves into them too, and just ignore the most important reason of all for not doing them—that we just don’t want to!

The biggest problem with both of these ways of settling is that once you set out on the wrong path, the farther you get down it, the more difficult it is to discover the right path. If you make it part of your decision-making process to make sure that you always do what you want to do and not just what you think you should do, you can save yourself a lot of heartache down the road.
