

This message applies to acting. This message applies to life. This is the most well-known unknown secret. This is the secret to being you. The you that you want to be.

I'm going to keep this short. Einstein always said that if you couldn't explain a concept so that a child could understand it, then you don't truly understand the concept. I will say that it's truly amazing how many things I don't truly understand yet, but this is one thing that I truly do understand. The secret to being the best you that you can be is very simple, but it's not always easy, so very few take advantage of it. I'll tell you what it is, but it's up to you to decide what to do with it.

Stop dreaming.
Start doing.

It is wonderful to dream, but if you dream away the day, in the end, none of your dreams will be fulfilled. My life changed when I stopped saying "I have a dream", and started saying "I have a plan". The fundamental difference in these statements is the reason why some fail and why some are fruitful. It's the difference between why some live and why some die.

My junior year, I dreamed of winning state. I dreamed of being a great writer. When the end of the year rolled around though, these dreams were still just dreams. I don't regret anything from that year. I learned and lived beautifully, and accomplished many things, but I wasn't living to my full potential.

My senior year, I didn't have a dream of winning state. I had a plan to win state. I didn't dream of being a great writer. I had a plan to write a full musical. I had my vision, and I pursued it. The plans changed and grew as I changed and grew with the world around me, but my goal was set, and my mind was set on it, so I set out to achieve it.

As I started to write my musical, I realized that I couldn't play music. So I made a plan, and taught myself how to play five different musical instruments over the course of three months. I then realized I had no way to record myself. I made a plan and learned to use recording software and saved money for equipment. I planned when I would write. I planned when I would work. My entire script was deleted after months of slaving over it. My music was pulled after completing almost all of it. When things happened, I adjusted accordingly, but I never stopped.

I won State in both of my categories this year. I wrote and composed the highest attended musical that Rocky has had to date. I now play five different instruments. I now can record on a semi-professional level. My relationships with my family and friends have never been as good as they are. I've never loved life more than I have, and I can never go back to being a dreamer, now that I know what it's like to be a doer.

I definitely don't say these things to brag. I give them to you as an example of what you can do. You were born with greatness inside of you. You were born to love your life, and to change the lives of others. You have the greatest mind and spirit on this planet. But it's all up to you.

You have a purpose. Are you going to find it?
You have a purpose. Are you going to fulfill it?
Or is it all just a dream?

Porter Jeppson