

Meaning of Life Profile

1. What does happiness mean to you?

Happiness means to me having a smile on one's face and feeling uplifted and loved by those around you. Happiness is when you feel rewarded for your actions and you truly feel like you are respected and appreciated by others. Happiness is when you are proud, feel accomplished, and love yourself. Recently my view of happiness has slightly shifted. I find happiness when the huge amount of stress and pressure is released after an assignment or a project is completed. I have found happiness through being appreciated and accepted by the variety of new friends I have made here at school. Happiness also strongly feels most plentiful when I am with my family and by being away from my family for five months now it has become more difficult to obtain this through texts and FaceTime. Instead, I have found happiness in the multitude of new meaningful relationships I have made with people I would never have met and a new culture I would not have received access to if I had not made the important decision to leave my home and experience an area extremely different. "Happiness, therefore, does not lie in amusement; it would, indeed be strange if the end were amusement, and one were to take trouble and suffer hardship all one's life in order to amuse something... everything that we choose we choose for the sake of something else-except happiness, which is an end." (Aristotle, 43). I feel as though this quote from Aristotle strongly relates to what I have mentioned above. I have found happiness through my hard work, dedication, and determination for success in my variety of classes. Through the relationships I have made with some professors and some of the work I have produced has brought me immense happiness due to the fact I have already developed so much as an individual. My performance in my business class, for example, has opened new doors in regards to internships and I am finally accomplishing the goals I have set for myself. My family has never been more proud of

me and I have, in that way, found happiness. Happiness means to me the bright feeling of accomplishment and pride after tireless work and effort.

2. A truly fulfilling, beautiful life must include...

A truly fulfilling, beautiful life must include laughter, accomplishment, reward, and love. A beautiful and fulfilling life is one where someone has accomplished the goals they have set for themselves, are surrounded by people who love them, and is filled with moments of laughter and good memories. "It is among good men that trust and the feeling that 'he would never wrong me' and all the other things that are demanded in true friendship are found." (Aristotle, 42). I have already created various friendships where I feel that both I and the other individual respect each other. Being able to trust the new friends I have made while being here has helped me learn important information about how to prepare living in a new environment. Most importantly, the trust I share with my roommates has really helped me transition into this new life. They help make my life more beautiful by supporting me, being there for me when I need help, and sharing many moments of pure bliss simply by laughing and having a great time. Lastly, it is where you have finally arrived to your destination and you feel as though you have completed what you were meant to do on this planet.

3. Do you agree with the idea that people are fully responsible for where they end up in life? Why or why not?

I do not agree with the idea that people are fully responsible for where they end up because, in my opinion, there are many outside factors that can influence the path, opportunities, and abilities of a person. For example, if someone is hindered from going a sports team because their family doesn't have huge influence on the community, not because of their athletic abilities, then it is people's personal preferences that are getting in the way of this individual. Overall, I believe people are mostly responsible for where they end up, but many outside factors can and will influence their path to success or

happiness. Currently I still agree primarily with what I had said previously, however, I have learned that my individual actions have had a greater impact on my performance of my life. My ability to time manage, focus in class, and approach different people have been the strongest factors on how I succeed in things. As Epicurus said, "Let no one be slow to seek wisdom when he is young nor weary in the search of it when he has grown old." (*Letter to Menoeceus*, 46) I have confided in older friends, my parents, and professionals for advice on how to prepare for what I have ahead of me. This has truly been one of the most valuable lessons I have learned, to ask for help. Through this communication it has enabled me to become more wise about my actions and in turn allows for me to have an influence on where I end up in the future.

4. Where would you like to see yourself in about 10 years?

In 10 years I see myself working at a big interior design firm where I have an important leadership position and I am respected and liked by my peers and clients. I see myself staying up north and being in a big city where many opportunities will present themselves to me as a talented interior designer. I also see myself in a happy relationship, though I'm not sure about marriage it depends on how successful I have been. I hope that I will be surrounded by great friends and still maintain a good relationship with my family who live so far away. I believe that if in 10 years I am a successful designer then I will be happy and feel rewarded that all my hard work of networking with interior designers, attending different workshops, and graduating from a CIDA accredited university will have truly paid off. I also believe that through the continuation of a peaceful mindset and politeness to everyone I encounter will enable me to get to this point in ten years. "A blessed and indestructible being has no trouble himself and brings no trouble upon any other being; so he is free from anger and partiality..." (*Epicurus*, 48). I feel as though once I have reached the top of my line in work, backing away from anger and partiality will allow me to become more successful and respected by my peers. It will help me in later than 10 years to eventually own my own firm and have a huge pool of clientele and employees who

respect and admire my work for various individuals and if I were to show those two characteristics, it would only hinder my growth.

5. Has your current college experience impacted the way you view yourself?

Yes, I believe that through the difficulties I have faced, the variety of new opportunities given my way, and the new friendships I have made this past year. I originally viewed myself as extremely independent, however, I have realized there is a limit on how well I do being separated from my family and friends. I have finally experienced homesickness and missing my family so much makes me think I am not as strong as I originally thought I was. However, it has also being refreshing to learn that I would still love the place I grew up. I moved away because I was not fond of the people and the atmosphere and I thought I would never want to go back and have to deal with it all over again. However, now I find myself counting down the days to go home. "Dreams have neither a divine nature nor a prophetic power, but they are the result of images that impact us." I have been living my dream of being away from these unsettling "images" or where I grew up where I felt unfit for the community and I think that this in turn has led to a great deal of happiness I have experienced living in Boston. But still, I have learned that perhaps I need a small dose of what I grew up with in order to feel more rounded and prepared for what life might have in store for me.

6. What doubts have you had since starting college?

To start off with Leo Tolstoy, "What will come of what I am doing today or shall do tomorrow? What will come of my whole life?" These are two questions I have been asking myself ever since I started off with college. These questions dictate how I manage my time, plan what classes to take for next year, and determine what path I want to set for myself to accomplish. I have doubted my minor even my major due to the classes I have been taking. I have so far accomplished a class that was so taxing on my anxiety levels and made me question whether or not I had even chosen the right

school to go to or even the major I had determined for myself since seventh grade. But through this hardship and this questioning I have learned that I still want to accomplish the goals I set for myself entering this new journey. Though some aspects of college has been extremely difficulty, I think it just has prepared me more for what to experience after graduation and that has been extremely valuable.