

Prewriting Graphic Organizer

The central idea of both texts is: Failure is productive and can lead to success.

The central idea of both “Steve Jobs’s Commencement Address” and “The Fringe Benefits of Failure, and the Importance of Imagination” is that failure is productive and can lead to success. Although presented in a somewhat different format, both Jobs and Rowling give a similar message to the college graduates. They detail the events from their own lives that have led them to believe that without failure there can be no success.

How is the central idea portrayed and elaborated in *Steve Jobs’s Stanford Commencement Speech*?

- Steve Jobs says that it was not until he was fired by the company he started and had nothing to lose that he felt free enough to become truly successful.
 - He says, “it turned out getting fired from Apple was the best thing that could have ever happened to me.”
- He started the NeXT company and Pixar.
 - Jobs says, “It freed me to enter one of the most creative periods of my life.”
 - Because he loved what he was doing and pushed through failure, he was able to be successful.

How is the central idea is portrayed and elaborated in *The Fringe Benefits of Failure, and the Importance of Imagination*, by J.K. Rowling?

- She explains that during this dark time of her life she was able to strip away what was not important and finish only the work that mattered to her.
 - Rowling says, “failure is fun.”
 - She says that without failure a person will, “never truly know yourself, or the strength of your relationships, until both have been tested by adversity.”
- This knowledge has allowed her to become as successful as she is today.
 - Rowling says, “Such knowledge is a true gift, for all that it is painfully won, and it has been worth more than any qualification I ever earned.”

Conclusion:

Both Steve Jobs and J.K. Rowling believe that their failures were productive and lead to their success.