

Polished Entry 2: Intrinsically Independent

We learned this week that motivation comes in two forms, intrinsic or extrinsic. Intrinsic motivation focuses on doing things for the sense of accomplishment, or the personal reward, focusing on internal reasoning rather than external factors. Extrinsic motivation is doing things to meet a requirement, to avoid a punishment, or for any other externally imposed reason. Students use both extrinsic and intrinsic motivations, as they have an innate desire to learn things and be curious, an intrinsic motivation, as well as deadlines and assignments that must be completed, an extrinsic motivation.

I feel that intrinsic motivation ties to independence in the circle of courage. Independence focuses on making your own decisions and taking responsibility for your own successes or failures, as well as setting goals and self discipline. This seems to almost match the definition of intrinsic motivation. Students are driving themselves to master the subject, not because they are being told to, but because they have their own goals and their own desire to learn. Taking control of their own learning and setting their own goals lands them in an intrinsically independent territory.