BEST POSSIBLE SELF



Objectives

By the end of the activity, you will be able to:

- 1. visualize yourself achieving the goal that you set; and
- 2. describe the benefits of focusing on the positive aspects of achieving your goal.

Part I. My Best Possible Self

1. State your big goal.
Big Goal:
2. Draw your "best possible self" as someone who has accomplished your Big Goal.

- 3. Imagine that everything has gone as well as it possibly could. You have worked hard and succeeded.
 - How would you celebrate?
 - How will you feel and what would you be doing at the moment you achieved your big goal?
 - Imagine yourself using as many senses as possible (smell, sight, sound, touch, and movement). Focus on your positive feelings. Think about how your hard work got you to your intended goal. Describe what you would see, hear, and feel when you achieved your big goal.

Part II. Post-activity Reflection

1. What did you feel while doing this activity? Please circle your responses.

Feelings	Very slightly or not at all	A little	Moderately	Quite a bit	Very Much
1. Excited	1	2	3	4	5
2. Afraid	1	2	3	4	5
3. Inspired	1	2	3	4	5
4. Enthusiastic	1	2	3	4	5
5. Determined	1	2	3	4	5
6. Upset	1	2	3	4	5
7. Alert	1	2	3	4	5
8. Nervous	1	2	3	4	5
9. Distressed (Stressed out)	1	2	3	4	5
10. Scared	1	2	3	4	5

2. What do you think about yourself after doing this activity? Please circle your responses.

Statements	Definitely false	Mostly false	Somewhat false	Somewhat true	Mostly true	Definitely true
1. Right now, I see myself as	1	2	3	4	5	6
being pretty successful.						
2. I can think of many ways to	1	2	3	4	5	6
reach my current goals.						
3. If I should find myself in a	1	2	3	4	5	6
difficult situation, I could think of						
many ways to get out of it.						
4. There are lots of ways around	1	2	3	4	5	6
any problem that I am facing						
right now.						
5. I will energetically pursue my	1	2	3	4	5	6
current goals.						
6. At this time, I think I can	1	2	3	4	5	6
achieve the goals that I have set						
for myself.						

Annex

Benefits of Goal-oriented Visualization

Please read this excerpt from a follow-up done with two students who participated in an NIE study involving visualization of their "best possible self" last year.

"When I started participating in this NIE study, I thought that I am unable to achieve my future goals to get high marks in Maths (subject in which I am weakest). By thinking about my best possible self—as someone who has received A+ in Math--I realized how it feels like to succeed. I have also learnt that doing visualization exercises and working towards my goals is more likely to produce better results than just working towards my goals. After doing five-minute visualization exercises every day for 2 weeks, I felt more confident of myself, less stressed out and more optimistic about the future. I also worked harder to purse my goals. My performance in school has also improved!"—Matthew (not his real name), a Secondary Three student

Visualizing my "best possible self" made me more optimistic, confident, and less stressed. My school performance also improved.

"Making friends has always been my problem. When I had to imagine my best possible self—as someone surrounded by many caring and loving friends—I realized that I had not really been making an effort to talk to or reach out to other students in this school. I had been so focused on keeping in touch with my old friends that I hadn't tried to build strong friendships here. Realizing this, I set a small goal of joining the school's Drama Club. Through that, I got to know some sweet and talented girls who became my close friends. I became more confident of myself, more motivated in attending school. I also feel that my school life is less stressful."—Atiqah (not her real name), a Secondary Two student from a school in Singapore.

