

***Step 1: Watch the Ted Talk***

[https://www.ted.com/talks/alain\\_de\\_botton\\_a\\_kinder\\_gentler\\_philosophy\\_of\\_success](https://www.ted.com/talks/alain_de_botton_a_kinder_gentler_philosophy_of_success)

***Step 2: Type and print two paragraphs***

De Botton says that we should "make sure that our ideas of success are our own." What's your definition of success? Write a succinct paragraph explaining your definition of success.

Once you have your definition down, get ready to write one more paragraph, this time explaining how you think your definition of success compares with your society's traditional definition of success. Are you pretty much in sync with the world around you, or do you think your definition may be a little left or right of center? Explain.

NOTE: With both paragraphs, be sure to edit and revise as necessary so that they are clear, concise, and as error free as possible. Once that's done, you're ready for your final step.

***Step 3: Fill out the chart***

Using your definition of success (and your perception of society's definition), fill out this chart in order to analyze just how successful—or unsuccessful—the characters in *Death of a Salesman* are.

***Death of a Salesman Activity: S-U-C-C-E-S-S***

Willy Loman's story isn't a happy one, but that doesn't mean there aren't any successes in *Death of a Salesman*. Use your definition of success—and your perception of society's definition of success—to determine which characters achieve it... and which ones don't.

(See next page)

Character	Is s/he successful?		Examples from the play that illustrate how this character is—or is not—successful
	By your definition of success	By society's definition of success	
<b>Willy Loman</b>	YES or NO	YES or NO	
<b>Linda Loman</b>	YES or NO	YES or NO	
<b>Biff Loman</b>	YES or NO	YES or NO	
<b>Happy Loman</b>	YES or NO	YES or NO	
<b>Charley</b>	YES or NO	YES or NO	
<b>Bernard</b>	YES or NO	YES or NO	