



Taking a Step Towards Success

Teacher-workers let other people make their decisions. Teacher-leaders make their own choices. To understand this concept, go to the **Going Beyond** folder for Chapter 22 or scan the QR Code in the book.

The margin for success is so thin that getting across it is astonishingly simple. Take baseball as one example. The difference between being an all-star player and an average player in baseball is so slight that it makes baseball seem like a silly game.

Consider the difference between a great year and an awful year.

The season is twenty-six weeks long. A player gets 500 at-bats between April and September. That's about twenty at-bats per week, or five games per week. The difference between a .300 average and a .250 average is ONE hit per week—ONE more every twenty times you bat.

At the end of the 2017 season, seventeen players bat over .300. From about 1,290 players playing full time on all the baseball teams, less than 3 percent will be batting .300. If you bat .300 per year, you are in an elite crowd that is able to earn millions of dollars more per year. **And all you have to do is get ONE more hit per week!**

Likewise, for any team, the difference between a miserable season with a 66–96 record and a terrific season with a 92–70 record is ONE more victory per week.

In the same way, success in life is simple. Try one or two new ideas, activities, or techniques each year:

- Go to a conference
- Access a website for a new technique
- Take an online course or listen to a Podcast
- Move up six rows at a conference or in-service meeting
- Share an idea with another teacher
- Welcome students at the classroom door with a smile
- Post a daily agenda with a lesson objective
- Form or be part of a collaborative impact team

Notice the active verbs: go, move, share, form, welcome. These are the trademarks of successful people.

It's very instructive to note that it takes just as much effort and you use exactly the same amount of energy to perform the following:

- Look for another program in the hopes it will do the teaching for you
- Sit in the faculty lounge with the negative people who moan, complain, and belittle

Taking a Step Towards Success (continued)

- Hide from people who may ask you to do something
- Gaze at your cell phone, ignoring other people
- Sit in the back rows at a meeting
- Use busy work activities to kill class time
- Vote against anything that measures teacher effectiveness
- Daydream about what you will do after school is over
- Sabotage any work that is collaborative

Notice the sedentary verbs: sit, hide, gaze, sabotage. These are the trademarks of unsuccessful people.

Which verbs best describe your attitude? The difference between a great year and an awful year is so slim! Life is no different.

All that separates a person from SUCCESS or FAILURE is one word: ATTITUDE.

It costs no money; requires no time; and exerts no effort. **All it takes is one more idea a week.**

<u>PLAYER</u>	<u>AB</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>AVG</u>
J. Altuve	590	204	.346
C. Blackmon	644	213	.331
A. Garcia	518	171	.330
D. Murphy	534	172	.322
J. Votto	559	179	.320
E. Hosmer	603	192	.318
J. Ramirez	585	186	.318
M. Ozuna	613	191	.312
D. LeMahieu	609	189	.310
N. Arenado	606	187	.309
D. Gordon	653	201	.308
J. Mauer	525	160	.305
J. Abreu	621	189	.304
E. Inciarte	662	201	.304
R. Zimmerman	524	159	.303
A. Rendon	508	153	.301
L. Cain	584	175	.300

*From MLB.com