

RADIO PRODUCTION GUIDE

Dealing with academic failure

Did you know:

- Research has indicated that one in five teens thinks about harming themselves. 7.8% of these youths have actually attempted suicide before, while 57.7% of the sample had told someone of their intentions to end their lives.
- In South Africa, as in the rest of the world, suicide amongst primary school children does not occur often. However, the occurrence of suicide amongst teenagers and young adults is dramatically increasing.
- One of the risk factors in South Africa appears to be matric exams. Stress levels before writing matric are very high and this appears to impact on suicide attempts by youth.
- Exams are not the final word on who you are. Exams are an indication of your knowledge AT ONE POINT IN TIME.
- Exam performance does not determine your success in life.
- Academic intelligence is only one kind of intelligence. There is also emotional intelligence. Measuring intelligence is a poor guide to a person's capability.

Is success perfection?
"Aim for success, not perfection.
Never give up your right
to be wrong, because then
you will lose the ability to
learn new things and move
forward with your life."
Dr. David M. Burns

"Success consists of going
from failure to failure without
loss of enthusiasm."
Winston S. Churchill:

"Failure is an event, not a
person." Zig Zagler

Resources:

Internet resources

[How to deal with academic Failure](#)
[Mindset: New psychology](#)
[Failure is an option](#)

YouTube resources: Short clips

[Dealing with academic failures and setbacks](#)
[High School advice: Bad Grades](#)
[Failure is not the end](#)





Preparing for the show

Choose an angle



Avoid people whose language sounds judgemental or shaming

Different ways to talk about dealing with academic failure

- ★ How to deal with self-doubt and the pressure from peers and family after failing a grade or an exam.
- ★ What does repeating a year at school really mean?
- ★ What are ways parents can support their children when they fail?
- ★ Pearls of wisdom. Have you failed at something and want to share?

Radio formats

Audio commentary

Audio commentary aim: To get people's opinion about a topic that they care deeply about.
Who do you talk to: With a young person that has repeated an academic year, or a local businessperson or professional who can reflect on the ups and downs of their journey to success.

Audio profile

Audio profile aim: To get a first person account of someone's experience and journey.

Who do you talk to:

- Talk to someone older about failure in their life and what they learnt from it.
- Talk to a teacher about their role in supporting students who repeat a year.

"It's failure that gives you the proper perspective on success."
Ellen DeGeneres

