Standards and Essential Question:
Student Agency: Student Empowerment
• Gain awareness of motivators that positively impact performance (6.SA.SE.6)
• Explore the relationship between grit and perseverance (6.SA.SE.8b)
EQ: “How have I overcome setbacks that I’ve faced this year?”

Step 1: Quickwrite
Please write your thoughts about this quote. You may answer the questions on the slide or choose to write about a time when you tried to create or learn something new (For example: an instrument, sport, skill...)
You may also use drawing and pictures to express your ideas.

Thomas Edison, the inventor of the light bulb and 1,093 patents, said:
“I have not failed. I’ve just found 10,000 ways that won’t work.”

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• What did he mean by this quote?
• How would you respond if you were wrong 10,000 times? How do you typically respond when you’re wrong or face a setback?

Step 2: Reflection
Before you answer the questions below, please circle any words that you don’t know.

How could you find out what these words mean? ____________________________

**Tenacity:** The quality of being very determined

**Setback:** A problem that makes progress more difficult

**Grit:** Courage and strength of character

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**My Tenacity**

Name: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________

Directions: Over the course of the year, you have faced challenges. Some of those challenges you took in stride and may not have missed a step. Other challenges may have slowed your journey to college success...but they did not halt your progress! Looking over your recorded setbacks from the year, write a few sentences to answer each of the reflective questions below.

1. What type of setback have you encountered most often in the past year?

2. What were your common strategies for coping with or overcoming the setbacks that you faced this year?

3. How can those strategies help you beyond middle school and/or high school?

4. What have you learned about yourself when it comes to assessing your personal grit and tenacity—your perseverance and passion—in conquering challenges?

5. What would be the one piece of advice that you would give to a younger student experiencing a similar setback to the one that you have overcome?
Step 3: Nonfiction Reading

Below are a few real life examples of people who showed tenacity in the face of setbacks.

Vincent Van Gogh
Van Gogh is considered one of the greatest artists of all time, yet the poor guy only sold one painting the entire time he was alive. Even though he made no money, he still painted over 900 works of art. Though his persistence went unnoticed when he was alive, Van Gogh proves you don’t need praise to be proud of your work.

Jay-Z
No one can stop Jay-Z. He came from a rough Brooklyn neighborhood and had big dreams to make it big as a rapper. Unfortunately, the rest of the world didn’t agree with him at first. Not one record label would sign him. Yet that didn’t stop him from creating his own music powerhouse. His label would eventually turn into Roc-A-Fella Records. Here’s proof Jay-Z is on top: Forbes has guessed his net worth of $500 million.

Bethany Hamilton
Hamilton started surfing when she was just a child. At age 13, an almost-deadly shark attack resulted in her losing her left arm. She was back on her surfboard one month later, and two years after that, she won first place in
the Explorer Women’s Division of the NSSA National Championships. Talk about determination.

By Sebastian Kipman at Lifehack

Michael Jordan

Michael Jordan is known as one of the greatest basketball players of all time. During his career in the NBA he scored 32,292 baskets. But did you know when he was a sophomore in high school he was cut from his varsity team? He didn’t let that stop him; he practiced extremely hard and put up many 40 point JV games. He eventually became a legend with 6 NBA championships and 5 MVP titles.

https://www.newsweek.com/missing-cut-382954

Step 4: Home Connections

There are many people who show strength and tenacity every day, and not just famous people from history or celebrities. Look for examples around you in your family and friends and please have a discussion with one other person at home or over the phone.

Questions you could ask include:

- What do you do when you encounter setbacks?
- Who is your inspiration/role model?
- What is a challenge you went through and how did you overcome it?
- Which qualities do you think are the most important when you set goals for yourself?
- What are some goals you have?