

Perfectionism versus “Doing Things Well”

Est.
1841

YORK
ST JOHN
UNIVERSITY

Instructions:

Perfectionism is about the unrealistic expectations that people might have for themselves and for other people in their life. This is different from doing things well or doing things the best you can. Below are a number of phrases that correspond with perfectionism OR doing things well. Your task is to identify whether the phrase is about perfectionism or doing things well. Draw a line to the correct phrase at the bottom of the page.

Hanging out with people only if they are smart, popular, or star athletes and refusing to spend time with anyone who does not fit this mould.

Taking lessons and practising or playing every day to ensure you are

Completing the tasks set for a project, working hard on it, handing it in on time and feeling good about what you learned.

Being upset at receiving an award with a misspelling on it.

Accepting an award with pride even though there is a misspelling on it (it can be fixed later).

Choosing to work in a group because you enjoy learning things from different people's experiences and ways of doing things.

Avoiding trying new things and having new experiences because you are afraid of making a mistake and publically embarrassing yourself

Joining a sport team (or other activity) and practising/playing two or three times a week for fun and friendly competition.

Trying new things even if you find them a bit scary, and learning from your experiences and mistakes.

Hanging out with people because you think they are interesting, likeable and fun to be with.

Accepting an award with pride even though there is a misspelling on it (it can be fixed later).

Not being able to leave your bedroom until everything in the room is just so.

Choosing to always work alone because no one can do the work as good as you and you are not about to let anyone else ruin your chances of getting an A*.

Studying hard for an exam, sitting it with confidence, and feeling good about getting score of 9 out of 10 or an A instead of an A*.

Keeping your room clean and tidy, regularly making the bed and putting your clothes away

Rewriting an essay over three times, staying up all night and handing it in late because you had to get it right (and then still feeling bad about it).

Cramming in revision until the last minute before a test, taking the test with sweaty palms, and then feeling bad about getting an A as your friend got an A*

TRYING TO DO
THINGS PERFECTLY

TRYING TO DO
THINGS WELL