**FAILURE TOSS**

**Goal:** Mistakes, failures, and obstacles can be powerful teachers for life lessons.

1. Ask students to take a blank sheet of paper. Draw vertical line down the center of paper.
2. At the top of the left column, write the word, *“Failures.”*

(You can offer to students to also consider these words instead of failure: mistakes, challenges, obstacles, adversities.)

1. Ask them to make a list of failures in school and in life. Say, “No one else will see this list so you can be honest with yourself.”
2. At the top of the right column, title the column, *“Life Lesson.”* Across from each failure, write the lesson learned. The student can write as many lessons as they learned from each failure.
3. Now, ask the students to tear the paper in half. This leaves *Lessons* in one hand and *Failures* in other hand.
4. Instruct them with this:

* You now have a choice. You can…
* Keep both the failures and lessons.
* Keep the failures and throw away the lessons.
* Keep the lessons and throw away the failures.
* Throw away both the failures and the lessons.

If you have time, ask students that if they have anything to throw away to get

up from their chair and throw in the class trash can.

**Debrief.**

Students are asked to do a 2–3-minute quick write about what this experience was like or what they learned from it, why they chose what they did.

1. Following the quick-write assignment, have a class discussion about the choices they made and why (what they kept and what they threw away) and about the life lessons learned.

Option 2: In small groups, each person reads their life lessons. They just state it, not how they learned it. (They do not read their failures.)

1. This can be an assignment…

* to submit immediately following the activity
* to bring back the following class session
* to submit as a journal entry