

**Life Update: February 2023**

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## Author's note

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(This is for the comment section)

For a while, I didn't want to upload the video, post-recording. Which is a shame, because the effort of production had concluded. Then, I realised I should upload it, and leave it unlisted. I justified this by its inherent cringeness, bad hair, terrible framing, and poor pacing and engagement. But all these are just poor excuses.

These excuses can be generalised to all of my productions.

Some of my excuses as to why I shouldn't make essays:

1. I make awkward eye contact
2. My videos aren't engaging
3. I make critical factual errors
4. YouTube as a platform is burning
5. No one watches these videos
6. No one watches video essays
7. Nothing I produce will ever be good enough

I can criticise myself to no end. However, these excuses are stupid, because it's not pertinent as to why I should not make video essays. I shouldn't be concerned about such issues. I shouldn't entertain such critiques. While I have a high-end production in mind, while I hold myself to impossible standards, I should realise what actually matters. I should entertain the reasons that are reasonable to my current circumstances.

I should produce because I want to, and for no other reason. I want this to be a turning point, because I want to progress in the way that makes me satisfied. I don't want to keep self-sabotaging myself and put out half-hearted work. A root cause of why this is happening is because I don't believe I'm worthy of success. However, this notion is stupid. Success isn't

bestowed onto someone, worthiness is not a factor into success. It merely is a state of being.

Worthiness is an external judgement of a state that is.

But I'm not satisfied with this answer. I can't tell whether this dissatisfaction is rooted in my reasons, or my emotions, or both. There is simply dissatisfaction within me, despite my discipline continuing my production momentum.

# Life Update: February 2023

## **Introduction**

There's a lot going on in my life. Thus, despite my desire to create more essays, it has yet to happen.

## **Education journey so far**

I graduated from Ngee Ann Mass Comm in August 2021. I PES F-ed in February 2022. I matriculated into NTU Philosophy in August 2022. I've been rejected from NUS and NIE. I would have gone overseas if it weren't for Philosophy.

## **NTU Philosophy**

I like this programme. There is a mild sense of euphoria as we realise the type of conversations we have is... special. We can talk about anything, without hesitation, as the foundation is of honesty, respect, and common understanding. We are predisposed as we share the necessary attitudes and tools to allow for deeptalk. I like my new friends. I like interacting with all the adults in NTU, from Philosophy and beyond. I like the content we're covering.

While NTU isn't perfect, I like what I have so far.

## **Content production**

There is a lot I want to say (write, produce). There's a lot going on in my life, more than just school. My time is split, and I am always exhausted. I have my sights on essay production. I have my sights on doing this seriously. This is the third iteration of my YouTube channel. The original two have been deleted, in 2014 and 2017 respectively. While I do feel a sense of loss for my original content, it is not intense.

Whatever I produced back then was not of quality. It was my child-exploration phase. During this iteration, my insecurities have always crippled my progress. I've always started production with the mindset that no one should care about anything I produce.

I know I'm being hard on myself. I know I'm not giving myself a chance. While I want success for my production, I am acutely aware of my internal limitations, and the uncontrollable external limitations. Success is possible regardless. But I keep self-sabotaging myself.

If one sets out to seek happiness, one will never attain it. I'm done making success the forefront of my production. It can take the backseat, or be thrown out completely. I'll write because I can, and because I want to. I'll write about the stuff I care about.

Maybe in the future I'll have the natural impulse to send these to my friends. But for now, I'll focus on producing rather than talking about it.

### **Log**

20230206 Document created

20230210 Essay fleshed

20230212 Video recorded, author's note added

20230219 Video edit draft 1, author's note edited, video scheduled

20230220 Video published

20230301 Essay published