

WEEK 15

DEFINING SUCCESS

Position: 12.1733,
-35.5744
Time: 2017-02-09
05:16:00 UTC



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**By Rich Wilson, Skipper
Great American IV**

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Our objectives for the race were to finish, and to finish in less time than 2008-9, which was 121 days. We have not yet finished, so we cannot say yet that we succeeded. We are still at sea and racing, whereas 11 have had to drop out for various reasons. The boat is in pretty good shape and the skipper too, although both are tired.

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our content on a rigorous schedule so that teachers could absolutely count on it being there when we said it would be, to support multiple distribution methods (newspapers, web, social media), to contract with various distribution partners globally for further widening of our network, and to assemble a Team of Experts without peer. We have done all of these, so the technical production can be declared a success.

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**By Lorraine Leo
Technology Teacher**

Has Rich been successful in achieving his goals? At the start of the race Rich said he wanted to sail well and write well, to share his story with those on land, to deliver the sitesALIVE! content and to finish the Vendée Globe. He wasn't defining

success by winning or losing the race, since that was not his primary goal. Success can be defined in many ways. Rich entered the Vendée Globe race in part for the challenge of the race, but mainly for the opportunity to create the sitesALIVE! education program designed to excite and engage students and families around the world. He says, "Once you've hooked kids with excitement, you can feed them whatever content you want—math, geography, teamwork, goal setting and more."

Was his sitesALIVE! education program successful? Absolutely! Rich called in audio podcasts via his satellite phone, wrote Ship's Logs, answered students questions, wrote essays in great detail, created videos of the gales, crossing the international dateline and prime meridian and on *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, among others. With help from his shore team, he also published a weekly print series that has appeared in newspapers around the world, Rich did this while sailing the *Great American IV* in difficult weather conditions, on dangerously high seas, in the heat and freezing cold, over the course of more than 25,000 nautical miles.

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very positive feedback and support from his followers. These point to the success of the sitesALIVE! education program.

Now we anxiously await Rich to cross the finish line in Les Sables d'Olonne and complete the Vendée Globe. Thank you Rich Wilson for your inspiration and perseverance in successfully completing the Vendée Globe with the admirable educational goals that you set up for yourself. We admire you!



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Look through the newspaper for examples of people who have overcome challenges. Was the challenge mental, physical, emotional, or social? How did overcoming the challenge affect the person and those who cared about him or her? Are there any comparisons that can be made between how the person overcame his or her challenge and how Rich Wilson overcame his? Read the newspaper articles carefully to identify factors that have enabled the described individual to succeed.

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