

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

Success can only be measured by comparing results to original goals. Within our project we had two major components: the Vendée Globe 2016; and our sitesALIVE! education program based on our participation in that race.

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.

With our school program, there were two sides to our goals. The first was the technical production of the program and its expansiveness. We wanted to make it truly international, have it be in multiple languages, to deliver 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.

Yet the ultimate goal was to engage and excite students in learning with our unique approach to using the real world to showcase and explain different subject areas. Whether we have succeeded in this will be a question for you, the students and teachers using the program. We have had good encouragement from many of you so far, but we will have to finish our program completely, and then look back at what we hear from you. We keep our fingers crossed that it has worked for you – that will be the ultimate test for whether we have succeeded or not.

We thank you immensely for your participation.



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.

Rich has been followed by thousands of students in classrooms and families around the world. He has received 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

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NEWS EXPLORER

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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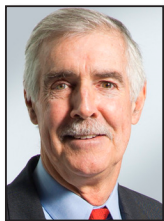
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