

If At First You Don't Succeed...

How to persevere through adversity



Definition of Persistence

- **Persistence involves sustained effort over time and the ability to continue in the face of frustration and failure.**

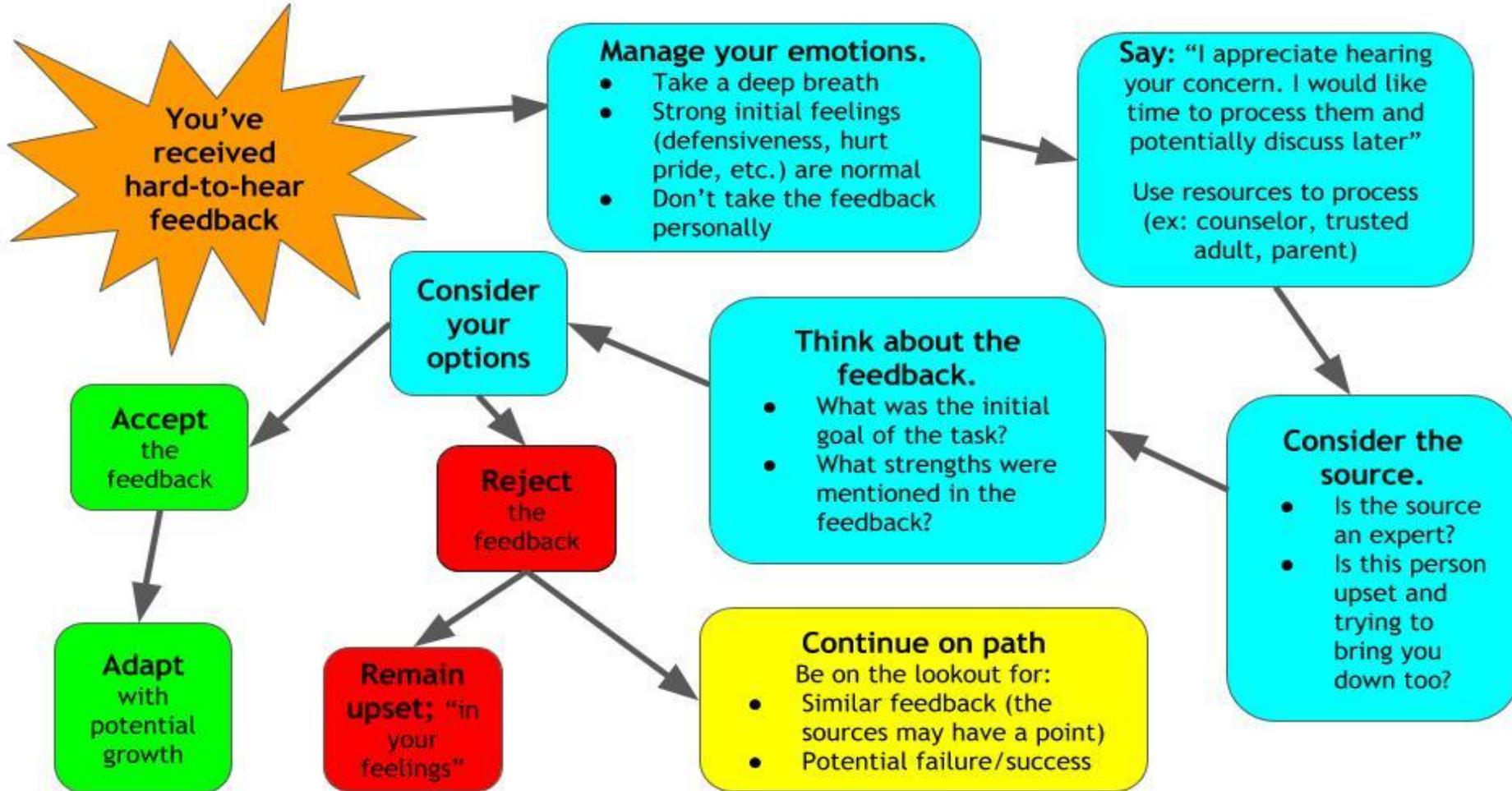
John Legend: Success through effort

- <https://youtu.be/LUtcigWSBsw>



To Be Persistent, be FIERCE

- “F” – Use **(F)lexibility**
- “I” – **(I)dentify** barriers along the way
- “E” – Maintain **(E)ffort**
- “R” – Know your **(R)esources**
- “C” – Stay **(C)alm** when confronting challenges
- “E” – Remember to **(E)valuate** how your current plan fits with your goals



J.K. Rowling

“By every usual standard, I was the biggest failure I knew.”-J.K. Rowling

- Writing the Harry Potter series was much more complicated than scribbling notes about the story on dinner napkins while riding the train. Joanne Kathleen Rowling’s success would require years of persistence in the face of numerous challenges. Soon after she began to write the Harry Potter story, her mother tragically died and Rowling fell into a deep depression, abandoning her writing. Trying to pull herself out of her sadness by teaching English in Portugal for a year, where she hoped to finish Book #1. Instead of accomplishing that goal, Rowling fell in love, got married, had a baby girl, fell out of love and got divorced. She returned to Scotland, now in an even deeper depression because she had no job, no finished novel, living off unemployment benefits, and needing to feed two mouths. Rowling found comfort in writing and made it a priority to continue working on the Harry Potter series in cafes while her daughter slept nearby. Once she finished the first three chapters, Rowling sent them off to twelve different publishers; her mailbox filled with rejection letters from every single one. While losing confidence in her Harry Potter creation, J.K. Rowling met with the editor at Bloomsbury Publishing Company and his eight-year-old daughter, who begged to read the rest of the story. The editor agreed to pay Rowling a measly \$4000 to write the rest of the book, but recommended that she find another job because “she wouldn’t make any money writing children’s books.” The work was an international hit and Rowling went on to write 6 more books for the series, which sold into the hundreds of millions of dollars, and was adapted into a huge blockbuster film franchise. Rowling is now the 13th wealthiest person in Britain, even wealthier than the Queen. Although she has said that she does not plan to write any more books to add to the Harry Potter series, she has written a few short stories and is working on a Harry Potter-related book

J.K. Rowling Processing Questions

- What were the identified barriers (obstacles) that J.K. Rowling experienced while trying to accomplish her goal? Consider both environmental and personal/emotional barriers, and how Rowling was flexible in overcoming those barriers.
- What was J.K. Rowling's goal?
- What strategies did J.K. Rowling use to remain persistent and overcome obstacles?
- What resources did J.K. Rowling use to overcome these obstacles?
- How do you imagine J.K. Rowling felt as she struggled to achieve her goal?
- In what ways did J.K. Rowling evaluate her progress towards her goal along the way? Do you think she reflected regarding her progress at various points?

The squirrel vs. the squirrel baffle

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MwH30DAQttQ>



Persistence: Reflection

- Identify 3 strategies to remain persistent in the face of challenges:
- Identify 2 times in your life when you wish you would have remained persistent:
- Name 1 strategy you will apply to a current challenge so you can remain persistent: