



Successful Leaders Who Have Experienced Rejection and Defeat

There are dozens of examples of celebrities, authors and politicians who have been rejected repeatedly and dug deep to find the strength to achieve great things. In fact, in every culture, the ability to transcend life's adversity is an essential feature of becoming a great leader.

Below are a few of the people who you may want to read about:

- Walt **Disney** was fired from the Kansas City Star because his editor felt he "lacked imagination and had no good ideas."
- Thomas **Edison**'s teachers told him he was "too stupid to learn" and he failed 1,000 times before creating the lightbulb.
- Albert **Einstein** didn't speak until he was four years old.
- Bill **Gates**' first company, Traf-O-Data, failed. When Gates and his partner, Paul Allen, tried to sell it, the product didn't even work.
- Theodor Seuss **Geisel**, better known as Dr. Seuss, had his first book rejected by 27 different publishers.
- Highly successful English music executive and reality television judge and producer Simon **Cowell** had a failed record company.
- Arianna **Huffington** received 36 rejection letters from publishers for her second book, despite the success of her first.
- Steve **Jobs**, in 1985, was voted by the Apple board to be removed from his position commanding the Macintosh group.
- Michael **Jordan** missed more than 9,000 shots, and when trusted to make the game-winning shot, he missed twenty-six times.
- Stephen **King**'s first novel was rejected 30 times.
- Steven **Spielberg** was rejected by the University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts multiple times.
- Vincent **Van Gogh** only sold one painting in his lifetime.
- Oprah **Winfrey** was publicly fired from her first television job as an anchor in Baltimore for getting "too emotionally invested in her stories."