

## My Dream and My Goal

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What do you want to be or what are your future goals? I think a lot of you have been asked this question many times, right? I feel like I have been asked this question hundreds and maybe even thousands of times. I usually answer: "My dream is, in the future, I want to work for the United Nations. I want to make the world a peaceful and better place. While I think this answer is noble and well-intentioned, I also believe that it is superficial and unrealistic.

Before I entered high school, I thought I had a simple plan for my future. My plan went something like this: First, I would go to Reitaku High School and learn about English. Then, I would study hard so that I could go to a famous university. After I graduated from the university, I would work for the United Nations. Sounds like a simple plan, doesn't it? Well, I've learned that life doesn't always work out the way you plan it.

After I entered high school, I realized that achieving my dream of working at the U.N. was not going to be so easy after all. As a result, I lost my confidence in my plan, and suddenly, my future dream disappeared. I could no longer find the reason why I wanted to work for the United Nations.

Right now, I am in my second year of high school, which means I have to decide my future course of study. However, I have a problem. I no longer have a dream or a direction that I want to go, but my teachers keep pushing me to decide what I want to be, what university I want to attend, and what my future plan is.

I tried to think about all of these things, but then, I realized something important: It's ok to not have a specific dream in the first place. Contrary to what many adults might think, I believe that not having a dream is not a bad thing. Students like me are under constant pressure to make important decisions about our lives right now. As a result, many students could get trapped into going down a path that they really don't want, and it could narrow their possibilities.

Generally, a lot of people think having an occupation will help them make their dreams come true, but I think this idea is wrong. An occupation shouldn't be connected to a dream or a goal. I don't want to be a person who lives to work. I want to work so that I can live and enjoy life.

I'm not saying having a dream now is bad. Of course having a dream is a wonderful thing. I'm saying that we should change the definition of what a dream is. A dream doesn't have to be about just getting a job. It can be abstract. For example: "I want to be a billionaire", "I want to fly around the world," "I want to have a big family," or whatever.

Therefore, we really need to think about what's most important in our lives and what will make us happy. Let's stop coming up with fake dreams or pretend that we know what we want to be in the future. For the adults around us, please stop telling us what we should be and guide us instead. After all, it's our future and our dreams, not yours.

Now, ask yourself how you really feel, and this time really think about the question: "What is your dream?"

Thank you for listening.