

do hard things by alex and brett harris

Do Hard Things is a powerful call to action authored by Alex and Brett Harris, two brothers who have inspired countless young people to step outside their comfort zones and challenge societal expectations. This groundbreaking book, released in 2008, forms a pivotal part of the Rebellion movement, which encourages teenagers to rise above mediocrity and make significant contributions to the world. The authors argue that the culture of low expectations surrounding adolescence must be challenged, and they present a compelling case for why young people should embrace difficulty and pursue excellence.

Understanding the Core Message

At its heart, *Do Hard Things* promotes the idea that teenagers are capable of much more than society typically expects. The Harris brothers argue that many young people fall into the trap of doing the bare minimum, settling for mediocrity in their education, personal development, and contributions to society. The book is structured around five key principles that guide their philosophy and encourage youth to embrace challenging tasks:

1. Rejecting the Low Expectations

The authors emphasize that society often underestimates the capabilities of teenagers. They argue that this low expectation creates a culture where young people feel entitled to do less. By rejecting these societal norms, the Harris brothers inspire their readers to strive for more and recognize their potential.

2. Embracing Responsibility

The book encourages teenagers to take responsibility for their actions and choices. The authors assert that with responsibility comes empowerment, and taking on challenges helps young people grow, mature, and develop essential life skills. Responsibilities can range from academic commitments to community service or family obligations.

3. Pursuing Excellence

Do Hard Things advocates for the pursuit of excellence in every aspect of life. The Harris brothers argue that young people should not settle for mediocrity but should strive to excel in their studies, relationships, and extracurricular activities. This pursuit of excellence requires hard work, dedication, and a willingness to step out of one's comfort zone.

4. Finding Community

The authors emphasize the importance of surrounding oneself with like-minded individuals who share the same drive for excellence. They encourage readers to seek out communities that support their goals and challenges, as this can provide motivation and accountability.

5. Building Resilience

Resilience is a recurring theme in *Do Hard Things*. The Harris brothers argue that facing challenges and overcoming obstacles builds character and prepares young people for future difficulties. They remind readers that failures are a natural part of growth and should be embraced as learning opportunities.

The Rebelution Movement

The publication of *Do Hard Things* sparked the creation of the Rebelution movement, which aims to inspire teenagers to take action and push their limits. The movement's name is a portmanteau of "rebellion" and "revolution," signifying a rebellion against the low expectations of adolescence. The Rebelution is built on the foundation of several core beliefs:

- Teenagers can achieve meaningful accomplishments.
- Young people should engage in service and leadership.
- Hard work and perseverance lead to personal growth.
- Community support is essential for success.

Through the Rebelution movement, the Harris brothers have created a platform for teenagers to share their stories, challenges, and successes. The website, Rebelution.com, features articles, resources, and forums for young people to connect and encourage one another in their pursuits.

Practical Applications of Do Hard Things

The principles laid out in *Do Hard Things* can be applied in various areas of life. Here are several practical applications for teenagers looking to implement the book's message:

1. Setting Personal Goals

Encouraging young people to set ambitious personal goals is a crucial step in the journey of doing hard things. Whether these goals are academic, athletic, or personal development-focused, having clear objectives helps provide direction and motivation.

2. Engaging in Community Service

Volunteering for community service projects is an excellent way to embrace responsibility and contribute to society. The Harris brothers encourage teens to find causes they are passionate about and dedicate time to serving others, which can lead to personal growth and fulfillment.

3. Pursuing Leadership Opportunities

Taking on leadership roles in school clubs, sports teams, or community organizations is a practical way to challenge oneself and develop essential skills. Leadership requires hard work, effective communication, and the ability to inspire others – all of which are valuable experiences for young people.

4. Challenging Comfort Zones

Young people should regularly seek to step outside their comfort zones. This can be done through trying new activities, taking on challenging courses, or engaging in difficult conversations. The more they push their limits, the more they will grow.

5. Building a Support Network

Finding a community of peers who share similar goals can provide encouragement and motivation. Engaging with others who are also striving to do hard things creates a sense of accountability and fosters an environment where everyone can thrive.

Critiques and Counterarguments

While *Do Hard Things* has been widely praised for its inspirational message, it has also faced critiques. Some argue that the emphasis on hard work and achievement can lead to burnout and an unhealthy pressure to succeed. Others suggest that the book may not adequately address the different circumstances and challenges that teens face, such as socioeconomic barriers or mental health issues.

In response to these critiques, proponents of the book emphasize the importance of balance. They argue that while it is essential for young people to strive for excellence, it is equally crucial to prioritize self-care and mental well-being. The authors themselves encourage readers to find a healthy balance between hard work and personal fulfillment.

Conclusion

Do Hard Things by Alex and Brett Harris remains a transformative work that challenges societal norms surrounding adolescence. By advocating for the rejection of low expectations, embracing responsibility, and pursuing excellence, the Harris brothers inspire young people to take charge of their lives and make a difference. The Rebelution movement continues to thrive, providing support and encouragement for teenagers as they embark on their journeys of personal growth.

Ultimately, the message of Do Hard Things is one of empowerment and resilience, urging young people to recognize their potential and strive for greatness in a world that often underestimates them. By embracing challenges and pursuing hard things, teenagers can not only transform their own lives but also positively impact the lives of those around them.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main premise of 'Do Hard Things' by Alex and Brett Harris?

The main premise of 'Do Hard Things' is to challenge teenagers to rise above societal expectations and embrace difficult tasks that foster personal growth, character development, and leadership skills.

How do Alex and Brett Harris define 'hard things' in their book?

In 'Do Hard Things', Alex and Brett define 'hard things' as tasks that are outside of our comfort zones, require effort, and contribute to personal development, such as serving others, taking on leadership roles, or pursuing challenging projects.

What are some examples of 'hard things' that teens can do, according to the book?

Some examples include starting a community service project, writing a book, organizing a fundraiser, or leading a group initiative, all aimed at pushing boundaries and making a positive impact.

What impact did 'Do Hard Things' have on youth culture since its publication?

Since its publication, 'Do Hard Things' has inspired a movement among teens to reject apathy, seek purpose, and engage in meaningful, challenging activities, leading to a greater emphasis on youth activism and leadership.

How do the authors encourage parents and mentors to support teens in doing hard things?

The authors encourage parents and mentors to foster an environment that supports risk-taking and resilience, provide guidance without micromanaging, and celebrate efforts and achievements in pursuing hard challenges.

What is the significance of the 'rebelution' movement mentioned in the book?

The 'rebelution' movement signifies a call to action for young people to rebel against low expectations and mediocrity, advocating for a culture where teens actively pursue challenging opportunities and strive for excellence.

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