



For the student .....

# NOMAKANJANI

## Special points of interest:

- There are always two choices. Two paths to take. One is easy. And its only reward is that it's easy.
- There are two primary choices in life; to accept conditions as they exist, or accept the responsibility for changing them.
- Say YES, to your dreams and goals
- Our lives are the sum total of the choices we have made.
- Some choices we live not only once but a thousand times over, remembering them for the rest of our lives.
- Destiny is no matter of chance. It is a matter of choice. It is not a thing to be waited for, it is a thing to be achieved.

## Your destiny, your choice.

We sometimes convince ourselves that successful people were born intelligent or they already had the talents or the money. From reading several books I found that it's not true. It actually has to do with choices we make everyday, some choices seem very small but they change our lives for the better or they destroy everything we've worked hard for. Here's my story about how I got 14% on my test during my first year.

It's 1989 March, I am walking back from campus with my head facing down, I am filled with disappointment. I have been spending so much time chasing girls, going from one University to the next. And .. now I failed my tests.

I arrived earlier than most students at the university because I wasn't sure I would be accepted at Durban Westville. My cousin found us temporary accommodation since she had friends at Univ. of Natal – at Allen Taylor – a residence for students studying to become doctors. I met so many students and started visiting both Universities. I forgot what I came to University for. I attended every class but most of the time my mind was on other things. I used to study in a group with my friends. We would go to my room and do homework together. It was fun – until today, when I failed 3 courses out of 4, and barely passed the other course. And.. I got 14% on my Mathematics test.

I was really down – I thought I should call home but had second thoughts - don't tell them. But I also remembered that my mother worked hard to get me the money to come here – in fact she had to borrow some from the bank. I decided why make things worse. I called – I told her the bad news. She was understanding because I was attending every class and doing my homework, and, this was just the first quarter. I felt better, but when I thought my friends had passed. I felt terrible again, not because they passed, but because I didn't pass. I went to my room – closed the door and sat for a while thinking what am I going to do. I even imagined coming back home in September not being allowed to write the final exam. What will my neighbours say? What will my friends from home say? Even after someone consoled me by telling me one of our religious classmates got 4%. I was still miserable. I went back to my room and started asking myself how am I going to get out of this? I took a pen and paper – I started writing my NEW rules. *Continued..*



**"On every journey you take, you face choices. At every fork in the road, you make a choice. And it is those decisions that shape our lives."**

**By Mike DeWine**

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## Tip of the month:

**"You are everything that is, your thoughts, your life, your dreams come true. You are everything you choose to be. You are as unlimited as the endless universe".** By Shad Helmstetter . Beware of the choices you make every single day. You may be tempted to take the easy road even though you know it's a wrong choice. Make the right choice – take the hard road if you have to. Take the hard road even if you are afraid - **courage comes from feeling the fear and doing it anyway.**

## Your Destiny, your choice. Continued .....

"No more TV during the week", "No more parties during the week", "No more Allan Taylor until after exams", "No more study groups" . I wrote them in a code N M T, N M P, etc in big letters and posted the paper on the wall so I can see it every day. I followed every rule." I like TV and movies but I gave it up. I thought, I have a choice – if I watch more TV – I don't graduate in fact I don't come back next year. If I don't watch TV during the week, I will comeback. Things changed because I changed my choices. I started passing my courses.

There's nothing wrong with studying as a group or with friends but you have to be honest with yourself. Meaning, if you don't understand things better afterwards – stop it. Tell your friends you'll study sepa-

ately and help each other where you get stuck with a problem.

Every choice we make either brings us closer to our dream or moves us far from reaching our dreams. Think of it this way, when you say YES to one thing you are saying NO to another. When you say YES to watching "Jam Alley" when you have homework, you are saying NO to your dreams.

Here's how it works. When you say "NO" to doing your homework – you are also saying NO to passing your exams, you are saying NO to University, you are saying NO to a job that pays a lot of money or the kind of job you want. Eventually you are saying NO to the car, house, career, wife, and life you want live.

Here's a rule if confronted with a choice. If you are not sure about something and if it won't help you pass, say NO or tell your friend next time.

You might lose friends for saying NO several times but true friends will understand because we are different, we have different dreams and they will respect you for that.

If you treat people with respect, and every now and then you put yourself in their shoes, you will always have friends. I've lost friends, and I've kept many. There are some who are still my friends from school. I respected their choices and they respected mine.



Where do I go next? It's easy when you have goals.

## SAY "NO"

***"NOMAKANJANI, I will pass  
Matric"***

Everyday, from the time we wake up to the time we go to sleep, we make choices. Some choices may seem small but they may have huge consequences. Like accompanying my friend in a stolen car to a store. Even though I don't steal cars, by simply getting into his car – I am making a choice and taking a huge risk. Police might stop the car for something else – and we might both end up in jail. What will I say afterwards? I had bad luck... The truth is **I pretended not to know** that this could happen. These are consequences. The problem with consequences is that – some could change your life completely. SAY "NO" to protect yourself, your life, your dreams, your family, your true friends.

Never – make someone the reason you are saying NO. Always make sure people understand that this is your choice. You become powerful when it is your choice. Say "NO" because you are on a journey to discover your true potential. Every step you take, every problem overcome, and with every choice you make, you will learn something about yourself. You will learn that you are stronger and more intelligent than you thought. Give yourself a chance. I promise you, you will be proud of yourself and your achievements.

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### About: Siyaphambili and Nomakanjani:

*Siyaphambili is the name of the organization formed by South Africans who live either in South Africa or United States of America. They studied in your school or a school just like yours. They believe most students have the potential to reach bigger dreams. Nomakanjani is the name of the news letter meaning "No matter what!" This was taken from a USA based business organization that teaches people that they will reach their dreams as soon as they make "no matter what" decisions.*

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