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# Making It Happen

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## Making It Happen

I believe that confidence is everything. Over time I've realized just how important confidence is in life. Back when I was in elementary school, I discovered that I had a speech impediment. Talking in class and to my friends became a significant challenge. This disability diminished my confidence throughout the early parts of my life. It even led to me being named the "most shy" student in middle school. I had trouble being social and breaking out of my comfort zone.

I met up with friends at a museum one time during my junior year of high school. They had other friends from their school with them and I saw one girl. The first thought in my mind was that she was pretty and way out of my league. I wanted to go over and introduce myself in person. I was nervous and decided to do something unusual. I asked her to take a random picture with her classmates and afterwards she had this look on her face that I was a little weird but funny at the same time. This was progress.

After a few weeks, my classmates and friends from the museum attended an opera. I made sure I looked nice, but I was nervous nonetheless. I wore cologne and rinsed my mouth out with Scope. I was pondering in my mind whether to say something cheesy like, "If I had a nickel for every time I saw a beautiful girl I would finally have one nickel." I was hoping that my words would come out clearly. My classmates and I arrived at the opera late and I waited for intermission. During the break, I changed my seat and sat next to her. At that moment, I felt like an entirely different person. I was talking to her with no anxiety and making her laugh and smile. This came from just being myself. I was

singing The Climb by Miley Cyrus, dancing awkwardly, and making jokes. I wasn't nervous and I was being the outgoing guy I had always known I could be. No pick up lines. No eccentric tricks. And most importantly no stuttering. I was just being me. We had an enjoyable night and I left a happier person. She's a great friend of mine now and this moment helped shape me into the person that I want to become.

My favorite athlete of all time, Michael Jordan, once said, "There are those who wish it can happen, those who dream it can happen, and those who MAKE it happen."

Confidence is the one thing that drives me towards happiness. Whether it has been driving a car, getting accepted into Bucknell University, presenting a speech, or talking to a girl, I did it with a little self-belief. Nothing is impossible if you believe you can do it. I know that that sounds cliché, but I don't care because it's true to me. Confidence is not only what I believe; it is what I live.