

# RESILIENCY, LEARNING AND FAILURE, OH MY

---

Dr. Amy Barron

"Try again. Fail again. Fail better."

— *Samuel Beckett*

# Why is failure good for learning?



It forces us to reflect on what went wrong and head back to the drawing board.



Which leads to innovation, creativity, and experimentation.

"I have not failed. I have found  
10,000 ways that don't work."

— *Thomas Edison*

# Ways to encourage and support chances to 'fail' in the classroom

The classroom is a safe space

Model failure and resilience

Stakes are lower in the classroom than in the 'real' world

A chance to try everything, to make lots of mistakes and learn from the mistakes of those around you

A chance to rethink preconceived notions of what you know or think you know

"Do not judge me by my successes; judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again."

— *Nelson Mandela*

# Ways to encourage and support chances to 'fail' in the classroom

Low grade assignments

LET IT GO!!!

Scaffolded assignments

Journaling/Self-assessment exercises

Grading for process not product

"Failure is success in progress."

— *Albert Einstein*



# Ways to encourage and support failure in your museums



LET IT GO!



BE HUMBLE



BE FLEXIBLE



BE  
INNOVATIVE  
AND  
CREATIVE



BE  
MOTIVATED



BE RISK  
TAKERS

"When you take risks, you learn that there will be times when you succeed, and there will be times when you fail, and both are equally important."

— *Ellen DeGeneres*

There is no status quo

– if you are not moving forward, you are  
moving back – to prevent this,  
you must be brave,  
you must experiment,  
and you must take risks.

– *Me*

"Those who dare  
to fail miserably  
can achieve  
greatly."

— *John F. Kennedy*



# QUESTION

---

What do you think are some of the  
barriers that prevent your  
organization from taking risks  
and/or embracing failure?