

Persistence in Tanach Assignment

Please find one example of someone who acted with persistence at any point in his or her life.

Person in Tanach	
Brief summary of the story or example you are referring to	
Where can you find this story in Tanach (exact source please- ex. בראשית א:ב. ex.)	
Why do you think they remained so persistent?	
Please come up with two questions you have about this story or person	

Student Sample #1

Persistence in Tanach

Please find one example of someone who acted with persistence at any point in his or her life.

Person in Tanach	
Give a brief summary of the story or example you are referring to.	Naomi was once rich, but now she was a poor widow. When Naomi's husband and sons died, she was ready to return to her home town. With all of her convincing, Ruth, her Moavite daughter in-law, refused to return to Moav. She finally let Ruth go with her.
Where can you find this story in Tanach (exact source please- ex. בראשית א:ב)?	<p>מגילת רות (א:טז)</p> <p>אֶל תִּפְגְּעִי בִּי לְעִזְבֹּךְ לָשׁוּב מֵאַחֲרֶיךָ כִּי אֶל אֲשֶׁר תֵּלְכִי אֵלַי וּבְאֲשֶׁר תֵּלִינִי אֵלַיִן עִמָּךְ עַמִּי וְאֱלֹהֶיךָ אֱלֹהֵי:</p> <p>Do not entreat me to leave you, to return from following you, for wherever you go, I will go, and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people and your God my God.</p>
Why do you think they remained so persistent?	I think that Ruth could see that Naomi had lost everything, and she wanted her to have something.
Please come up with two questions you have about this story or person.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why wasn't Orpah as persistent to stay with Naomi as Ruth is? 2. Why didn't Naomi want anyone to come with her? She clearly didn't have anyone, so way push the ones she COULD have way?

Student Sample #2

Persistence in Tanach

Please find one example of someone who acted with persistence at any point in his or her life.

Person in Tanach	Calev Ben Yefuneh and Yehuda Ben Nun
Brief summary of the story or example you are referring to	12 Spies were sent to scout out the land of Israel. They came back and 10 of them reported bad things about Israel when it wasn't really a problem. 2 Spies named Calev Ben Yefuneh and Yehuda Ben Nun stood up for what's right even when all of Bnei Yisrael disagreed
Where can you find this story in Tanach (exact source please- ex. בראשית א:ב)	Bamidbar perek 14-15
Why do you think they remained so persistent?	I think they stayed persistent because they knew what was right and if they had given up Bnei Yisrael could have completely turned around and go back to Egypt. Even the smallest bit of goodness helps. A little bit of light keeps a room from going completely dark.
Please come up with two questions you have about this story or person	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) How did they stay persistent when things were going so wrong at that moment?2) Why didn't Bnei Yisrael see what was right?

Bnot Tzlafchad Assignment

Please read פסוקים א-יא / Verses 1-11 here: http://www.chabad.org/library/bible_cdo/aid/9955

After you have read those פסוקים, please answer the following questions on **this document**.
You should answer the questions in essay format- 2-3 paragraphs. Make sure to include all of the questions.

- 1) Please write a brief summary of what you read.
- 2) How does this section show persistence?
- 3) What can you learn from בנות צלפחד / Daughters of Tzlafchad?

Student Sample #1

Mahla, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah came to Moses and told him that their father had died. They told everyone that their father was not a part of the people who rebelled against God but he had made his own sin. He had died without any sons to live on his legacy. The girls told Moses that they wanted to be the ones to inherit their father's legacy. Moses asked God and He said they should be granted a part of their father's inheritance along with their father's brothers. God told Moses to tell the people that if a man dies with no sons his inheritance goes to his daughters. If the man has no daughters it goes to his brothers, if he has no brothers it goes to his father's brothers and if his father has no brother then it goes to the closest family member. In the end, God tells Moses to overlook Israel but he will not be permitted in because of his sin.

Mahla, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah wanted their father's legacy to live on. He had no sons so they wanted to inherit his legacy instead. They persisted and asked Moses if they could take their father's inheritance. After persisting they ultimately got what they wanted which was to get their father's place to live on.

What we can learn from this is you never get what you want unless you ask. If the girls had not asked, nothing would have lived on. We should always keep trying to get somewhere in life, if we truly believe it is right.

Student Sample #2

The B'not Tzlofchad were 5 daughters of a man who died in the desert. They wanted to get their father's inheritance so they told Moshe about their issue and he told god who created a new law. The law was that if a man dies with no sons that his inheritance goes to his daughters. The torah goes on to describe the hierarchy of inheritance.

I do not think that this story relates to persistence so much. If they had asked Moshe several times before Moshe talked to god then this would be a story of persistence. Since they only asked Moshe once I personally don't view it as an act of persistence. Some people could view it as an act of persistence because they tried hard to get what they deserved.

The B'not Tzlofchad teach us that something is always worth a shot. They could have thought that Moshe would never pass a law simply because they weren't super important, but they decided that it was worth a shot and they got a law passed because of it. If there is a big wall in your life that you have to climb you say that it's worth a shot. Even if the odds are stacked up against you you should always try.

Creative Writing Persistence Assignment

Please write your own fictional story about someone who acts with persistence. Be creative!

Student Sample #1

Persistence Story

Ever since Katie was little, she loved rollerblading. She won all sorts of town roller derbies. But Katie wasn't happy. She grew tired of the competition and she no-longer felt challenged. The thrill of winning after a week of training had dried up, she no longer needed to train, and she grew bored.

"Why don't you go to Nationals?" Jeremy said, "It might give the rest of us a chance." Katie stuck her tongue out and rolled her eyes. But as Katie continued her day, she couldn't shake the idea from her mind.

It wasn't until midnight, when Katie snuck into her mother's room and shook her awake. "Mother," Katie whispered, "Mother..." And finally Ms. Lindwell awoke. With a groggy expression she hissed a "What?" that pierced through the darkness. Katie whispered "I want to be in the National derby, I know it's hard, but it sure beats playing with Jeremy, Addison, and Mell every month!" Katie giggled to herself. "If you really would like to you can, I won't make you choose one way or another. When is it?" Katie shyly answered "July 18th..." Katie pressed her eyes shut and crossed her fingers, "July?" Ms. Lindwell gasped, "That's two months from now!" She fell back to bed with a thud. "Oh, but I'll work every second of every day! *Please* mother!" Katie wheezed in an exasperated manner. "Fine" Ms. Lindwell sighed while rubbing her temples.

Katie practiced, and she practiced, and she practiced. Finally, the big day came, and she laced up her blades and took a lap around the stadium. She got into place and gazed at the race numbers of the girls next to her. She heard her cue and skated with all her might.

Katie finally heard the whistle blow and stopped herself from going any further. She shook hands with the other girls and trudged up the stairs to sit and watch the other competitions with her mom.

The competitions had ended and the man started reading, "For the girls 13 to 15 race: In third place, number 408T6." Katie's heart thumped faster. "In second place, number 405S6." Katie looked down at her number, number 405S6. She went down the stairs and claimed her medal. "And in first place, number 411T6..." The girl came down and stood next to Katie, put on her phoniest face and said "Don't feel bad, not everyone knows that second is just first loser." Katie sucked her teeth and smirked "There's always next year, and I'll never stop trying." The girl rolled her eyes and waved to her fans.

Student Sample #2

Just Keep Swimming

Sarah was just starting her freshman year. So far she had been very stressed everyday of it. Each day she had the same exact routine: school, homework, sleep, and repeat. She complained to her friends saying, “why do I work so hard?? what do these good grades even mean????” Her friends always replied, “one day it will be clear.” She never understood them. As the year slowly went by Sarah worked harder and harder. She would spend days on essays and hours studying. The same routine happened through tenth grade, eleventh grade, and her senior year. Sarah gradually began to love her routine, but never really understood why. As she took her final steps into adulthood, she realized something. She proudly took her diploma, thinking about all her high school memories. Then it hit her. What her friends had told her in the first month of 9th grade made sense. Her friends showed her that grit and persistence can lead towards amazing experiences and unique opportunities. High school!!!!!!!!!!

Kate Hannigan Thank You Letter Assignment

Please write a thank you note to Ms. Hannigan for coming in to speak to us today! Your letter should include:

- at least one thing you learned from her presentation
- how it connected to our unit on persistence

Please try to write this letter as soon as possible! I know that you are off from school for the next few days, but we want to say thank you as soon as possible and while it is still fresh in our minds!

Student Samples

Dear Ms. Hannigan,

Thank you so much for taking your time to tell us about your experiences. It was nice to hear how you worked so hard to get to where you are now. I appreciate you telling us all of the setbacks you had to face in the process of becoming a writer. This was really encouraging. You told us that every day we have goals we hope will be achieved and every day we have setbacks. If we are passionate about our goals then we should do whatever it takes to achieve them. Without persistence we would not be able to reach our dreams. Again, I appreciate you coming and telling us about yourself and your career.

Dear Ms. Hannigan,

Thank you so much for coming to our school to talk about persistence. I found your presentation very cool and interesting. You took all the stumbling blocks in front of you and turned them into a learning experience. I hope that I can learn to do the same thing, when times get difficult.

Dear Ms. Hannigan,

Thank you so much for taking time out of your day to come and talk to us about your experience with perseverance. I really enjoyed your talk! Something that I learned from your talk was that no matter how many times the world tells you no, you just need to keep trying until you succeed. This relates to our unit, because we are learning about persistence and how people have persisted in life.

Thanks again,

Portfolio Assignment

Upon the completion of each unit, you will be responsible for turning in a portfolio as a summary of your learning. Throughout the unit, there will be different assignments that will become a part of your final portfolio. Therefore, each assignment is really a step towards completing your portfolio!

This portfolio can be turned in as a hard copy or as a google doc.

Portfolio Guidelines:

Introduction	Include your initial definition of the unit and how that may or may not have changed after learning more.
Examples in Tanach	Who (in Tanach) is an example of this trait? What story shows them acting with this trait? What can we learn from them?
Media Example	An example from the media (newspaper article, TV show, movie clip) that relates to the unit. You must also explain the example and how it connects.
Jewish article	Please find a Jewish article that connects to the unit (you can look on aish.com, chabad.org or any other Jewish sites). Include a summary and your thoughts on the article.
Open Creativity	Express yourself! Teach something about the unit through art, music, a funny skit, game or something else.
Keychain/Magnet	Create your own keychain or magnet that resonates with you regarding the unit. It does not have to be your own quote.
Conclusion	Please summarize your sources and include how you plan to connect the ideas and lessons from this unit to your own life

This assignment will be worth 100 points.

Student Sample #1

Persistence. Continuing and pushing through in spite of obstacles. Success. Accomplishing a goal or purpose. Success does not come without persistence and persistence does not come without success. My thoughts about persistence did not change before this unit but they were deepened. The articles we read, and examples we learned strengthened my thoughts about persistence and made me think more about what persistence really is.

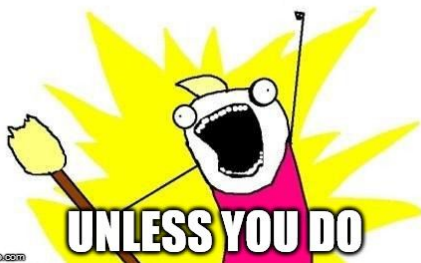
This summer the 2016 olympic games were held in Rio. I personally love watching the gymnastics. They were all so good. One of the gymnasts who really stuck out to me was Laurie Hernandez. When I found out that she would be on *Dancing with the Stars* (a T.V. show in which a celebrity pairs up with a professional/ballroom dancer and competes against everyone else until there is one winner) I knew that I would be watching. I saw on one of the episodes, in the section where they give information about the people and how they trained for the dance, that one time she fell and badly hurt her knee. She needed surgery on it and was in a full leg brace. But then they showed a picture of her stretching and doing the splits in her brace. Even when she was badly injured she was still pushing through and eventually won gold.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tivrR6jllNw>

http://www.chabad.org/news/article_cdo/aid/2246104/jewish/Two-Kids-Show-What-Friendships-All-About.htm

This article is about a boy with special needs who is about to have his bar mitzvah. No one thought that he could read from the torah or recite anything, but with the help of another boy doing his own bar mitzvah project, they persisted and gave an unbelievable performance at his bar mitzvah.

DREAMS DONT WORK



In conclusion, this unit has taught me that persistence can be shown in the little things in life. Like the way Laurie Hernandez stretched in her brace, I should make the most of each situation in life even if it is hard. And also the bigger ways, like how Yehoshua and Calev stood

up for what's right even if all of Israel was against it and how a boy with special needs worked to speak at his bar mitzvah. Despite the obstacles in life, big and small, we should push through them in order to succeed.

Student Sample #2

Persistence is striving for a goal no matter what obstacles are in the way. Throughout this unit a common thread emerged, without persistence and hard work, success would not be possible. With all of the stories and sources my ideas did not change, however they were more rooted in facts so I could make an argument for my claim.

Shaul chased David all around the country trying to kill him. He kept trying to kill him resulting in more conflict. I think Shaul remained so persistent because he was really mad at David, so he really wanted to kill him. There are several times where Shaul attempts to kill David, which shows lots of persistence. Also he could have thought that he would regret it if he gave up so he decided to keep going.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DP3MFBzMH2o>

This clip shows Rocky training for his boxing. Throughout his training he keeps persisting and trying until he finally reaches the top of the Art Museum stairs in Philly. He is super excited that he reached his goal.

http://www.chabad.org/news/article_cdo/aid/3254790/jewish/91-Year-Old-Mesmerizes-Colorado-Audience-With-Story-of-Auschwitz-Survival.htm

Albert Rosa showed that anything is possible if you persist. He was on a death march when he escaped and joined the American army. He had witnessed the murders of his brother and sister.

Open Creativity- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XkfZoSvZwdM&feature=youtu.be>

Persistence is striving for a goal no matter what obstacles are in the way. Paul George was not stopped by injury, and Nazis couldn't stop Albert Rosa. Persistence is important while training for anything like a boxing match or a bottle flip. I can learn from this unit that you can't waltz your way to victory, but hard work is always necessary.

End of Unit Survey Assignment

Persistence Unit Survey

Please fill out this survey and let us know what you gained from the unit, what you would add or change to future units, and how we can improve in general!

* Require

Name *

Your answer

I was interested in the topic *

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neutral

Agree

Strongly agree

I feel like I gained a different perspective or added to my original definition of persistence through this unit *

Agree

Disagree

Please explain your answer *

Your answer

My favorite part of the unit was *

Your answer

My least favorite part of the unit was *

Your answer

Something that I would add to future units is *

Your answer

Something I would change for future units *

Your answer

Please tell us your thoughts on the Persistence Portfolio *

Your answer

Please list ideas for future units *

Your answer

Anything else?

Your answer

Student Survey Responses

Liked	Didn't Like
Portfolio (6 people)	Too many articles (2 people)
Videos of Persistence	Less group work
Stories of Persistence	Intro and Conclusion of Portfolio weren't clear
Pictures of Persistence	Not enough class time
Seeing other people's portfolios	Too much packet work
So many chances to be creative!	Finding a Jewish article
Kate Hannigan visit	Portfolio (2 People)
Key Chain	Packet
The articles	Journal writing
Creative writing	
Open Creativity	
Media example	

Suggestions:

More creative assignments
 More group activities
 More combined classes
 Fewer group activities
 More individual projects
 Different projects for each unit
 More Guest speakers
 Make a skit
 Debate
 More videos
 Class game