

**South East High School**  
**Advisory Curriculum: 10<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
**Mindset**

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**10/18/12**

**Date of Lesson:** Day 4

**Objective:**

Given the video interview of Will Smith, film and television actor, Grammy Award-winning rapper, by Tavis Smiley, PBS Program journalist, students will gain insight on one person's "will" to move himself forward with a mindset of perseverance and determination.

**ESLR**

**Critical Thinkers** who:

- Analyze and interpret information
- Utilize effective strategies to solve problems
- Demonstrate technology literacy

**Anticipatory Set**

**Time: 10 min.**

- Agenda written on board
- **Teacher Action:** Review agenda items with students. Then, Teacher will say, "Do you recognize who this actor is? You may have seen the television program he starred in called 'The Fresh Prince of Bel Air.' He was a Grammy Award-winning rapper in his late teens-early twenties. And, he's been in the films 'Men in Black,' 'The Pursuit of Happyness,' and 'I Am Legend.' How long do you think or know he has been in the entertainment industry?"  
  
Students exchange what they know of Will Smith, his career, or his films, while Teacher takes roll.
- **Student Action:** Voluntarily, or at Teacher discretion, three Students offer what they know or have discussed with group about Will Smith.
- **Teacher Action:** Teacher prompts: "Will Smith has grown his career over the last 20 years. During that time, he's developed a perspective that emphasizes perseverance and determination. We're going to read a transcript [*and watch an excerpt if classroom has projector*] of an interview he did in 2007. As we're reading or watching, I'd like you to consider Smith's message (ideas that he has and wants to share with others) and whether he has something to say that goes beyond being a famous person – does he have a point that could apply to us as everyday people?"
- **Student Action:** Voluntarily, or at Teacher discretion, three Students offer feedback.

Student volunteer will distribute handouts of interview transcript to each student.

**Lesson/Activity****Time: 15 min.**

- **Teacher Action:** Teachers will have transparencies of interview excerpt for overhead or an email document and website link for laptop-projector.
- **Student Action:** Students watch video and/or read transcript. At Teacher's discretion, reading transcript can be done as whole class, in groups, or pairs, stopping for reflection and feedback.

**Closure/Reflection****Time: 5 min.**

- **Teacher Action:** Distribute exit ticket with question, "After reviewing Will Smith's interview with Tavis Smiley, what are your ideas about talent vs willpower ["Will's power"]? Which of Will Smith's ideas do you agree or disagree with most? Write the quotation from the transcript and a brief explanation of what you agree or disagree with, and why."
- **Student Action:** Student takes exit ticket for completing outside of Advisory class and returns it the following week.

**EXPECTED SCHOOLWIDE LEARNING RESULTS – ESLRs** South East High School will prepare students to be:

**Aware and Socially Responsible****Citizens** who:

- Practice ethical behavior
- Accept civic responsibility
- Respect and appreciate diversity
- Maintain an informed world view

**Critical Thinkers** who:

- Analyze and interpret information
- Utilize effective strategies to solve problems
- Demonstrate technology literacy

**Effective Communicators** who:

- Speak confidently
- Write effectively
- Read critically
- Listen reflectively

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**Transcript:** <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/tavissmiley/interviews/actor-musician-will-smith/>

**Video:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M88uMRwsj0U>

**Tavis:** So when I see Will Smith saying, “I Am Legend,” I’m thinking, this is Will Smith. I am legend. You are really becoming an iconic figure. What do you make of that?

**Smith:** It’s what my grandmother told me I had to do. I was sitting with Tyrese a couple weeks ago, just coming off “The Transformers” with him, just about the business and just really, he and I get on the same wavelength so I could be of some assistance, if I can. And there’s a concept that I don’t want to be an icon. I want to be an idea. I want to represent an idea. I want to represent possibilities. I want to represent magic, right, that you’re in a universe, and two plus two equals four. Two plus two only equals four if you accept that two plus two equals four. Two plus two is going to be what I want it to be. And there’s a redemptive power that making a choice has, rather than feeling like you’re at effect to all the things that are happening. Make a choice. Like you just decide what it’s going to be, who you’re going to be, how you’re going to do it. Just decide, and then from that point, the universe is going to get out your way. It’s water; it wants to move and go around stuff. So for me, I want to represent possibilities. I want to represent the idea that you really can make what you want. One of my favorite books is “The Alchemist,” Paulo Coelho, and I just believe that. I believe that I can create whatever I want to create. If I can put my head on it right, study it, learn the patterns, and – it’s hard to put into words, it’s real metaphysical, esoteric nonsense, but I feel very strongly that we are who we choose to be.

**Tavis:** First of all, that’s not mumbo-jumbo. It makes sense, number one. Number two, I think sales of “The Alchemist” just went up. (Laughter) Whatever that book is, sales just went up on Amazon.com right about now. If that happens, I’m going to call you and say, “Will, I wasn’t lying. It really went up.”

**Smith:** No, it’s great. It’s a quick read, too.

**Tavis:** If you can spell “Alchemist.” (Laughter) That’s a good Scrabble word, alchemist, yeah.

**Smith:** No, but the alchemist – like I consider myself an alchemist. An alchemist is basically a mystical chemist, right? And one of the great feats that alchemists used to do is they would take lead – just take a chunk of lead – and they could turn lead into gold, right? So the symbolism –

**Tavis:** That sounds like a good hustle. (Laughter) When I leave here, get me some lead.

**Smith:** I’m gonna get me some lead.

**Tavis:** Exactly.

**Smith:** But I so connected to symbolically being able to turn lead into gold. My grandmother used to say, "Life give you a lemon, you go ahead and make lemonade." To me, that's alchemy; that's the same concept behind "The Alchemist."

**Tavis:** I'm with you on the alchemy part. The last question I think I have time to ask, maybe the last question, is whether or not you – The question I'm really getting to is whether or not there is something special and unique about you that everybody can't emulate.

**Smith:** I have this discussion with friends of mine all the time. The only thing that I can see – and you can never really look at yourself – the only thing that I see that is distinctly different about me is I'm not afraid to die on a treadmill, right? I will run.

**Tavis:** You will not be out-worked.

**Smith:** I will not be out-worked, period. You might have more talent than me, you might be smarter than me, you might be sexier than me, you might be all of those things you got it on me in nine categories. But if we get on the treadmill together, right, there's two things. You're getting off first, or I'm going to die. It's really that simple, right? So let's go back to the question about what if people block me out. It's going to be two options. I'm going to get back in, or I'm going to be dead, right? It's, like, you're not going to out-work me. It's such a simple, basic concept. It's the guy who is willing to hustle the most is going to be the guy that just gets that loose ball. Oh, and he got that – oh, he got that, oh, okay, he got two. He got – ooh, god, he's a hustler, he grabbed that one. That was going to be out of bounds, but he saved it. Back in. It's like the commodity that I see the majority of people who aren't getting the places they want or aren't achieving the things that they want in this business is strictly based on hustle. It's strictly based on being out-worked; it's strictly based on missing crucial opportunities. I say all the time if you stay ready, you ain't gotta get ready.

**Tavis:** Get ready, I'm with you. That's why he is fast becoming a legend, and whether he likes it or not, an icon and an idea, and that is why I will make a bold prediction here: "I Am Legend" is going to make some money this weekend. (Laughter)

**Smith:** I hope so.

**Tavis:** Domestically and internationally. I got it right now. Will Smith, good to see you, man.

**Smith:** Thank you, baby. Good seeing you.

**Tavis:** Appreciate you, I love you much. "I Am Legend," starring Will Smith, go check it out. You don't need me to tell you that, though.