



Originally posted 7/28/23

NINE WAYS PLAYING SCRABBLE GOT MY LIFE TOGETHER

Scrabble is just a game and I know I shouldn't take it so seriously. But that's how my mind works; everything must have meaning. I love sharing the lessons I learn as I navigate about this life and I believe these nine principles will help you on your own journey. Check them out.

Use what you got to get what you want.

In Scrabble you have a certain amount of letters and in life, a certain amount of intrinsic resources (i.e., talent, skill and ability, etc). You can only use what you have - seven letters or a certain skill - to secure your desire, i.e., the most points or the most money. In life you can use whatever asset, skill, talent or ability you have to obtain whatever it is that you want.

Connection is key.

Out of all the spaces on the board, the only useful ones are those that allow you to connect with words already on the board. There are many opportunities in this world, but the most useful ones are those where we connect with and build on an opportunity with another human. Networking and collaboration are key for making moves and connections that can change so many lives.

When you appear to be stuck, remember there is more available than what you can see.

Sometimes when I play, I will get stuck on a particular area of the board. Beyond that area though is a whole board with available spaces, just as there is a whole world of available opportunities. When you are stuck in one area of your life, especially when you can't see an opportunity, remind yourself there is *always* another way. And the world is full of people waiting to experience the unique expression of your gift, so never give up.

Search for what you need.

You will always have what you need. Chances are, all the letters you need to form a word are either in your hands or on the board. The trick is, they may not be in the space or order you want. Even though the answer to your need may not appear in the form you imagined, keep looking and you'll see exactly what you need to complete your goal. You may be stretched by having to look at your situation in new and different ways in order to see what you need, but life is all about stretching, searching and finding.

Be flexible.

Everything will not go as planned. Your flexibility will help you land on your feet. There have been many times when I planned a play, to place a word in a certain space unbeknownst to my opponent and they take my space. Am I going to just quit? No, I'm gonna re-strategize and find another way, the same way life demands you do.

Consider all of the options.

Take all of your letters into consideration and think of as many possibilities as you can using those letters. In life, don't just take the first offer without considering all of your options. There may be something better just around the corner. Plus, you were not created to settle. You deserve to have every good thing having options bring into your life.

Analyze the competition and collaborate when possible.

You must analyze the competition if you have any intention on winning the game. Study their strengths and weaknesses. Opt to collaborate where it makes sense for all involved, shortening your learning curve and stretching your opportunity for a win.

Step forward.

Make the moves that move you forward, no matter how small or seemingly insignificant. Every move in the game, unless you pass on your turn, moves you forward in some capacity. Make sure the moves you are making in life push you forward rather than hold you back. Even baby steps count.

You won't win the game every time, but you always win.

Every move you make won't necessarily lead to a victory, but with every move, you're setting yourself up for something greater. You win even when you lose. If you pay attention, each game you play, whether you win or lose, teaches you something. It's up to you to walk away with and implement those lessons.