

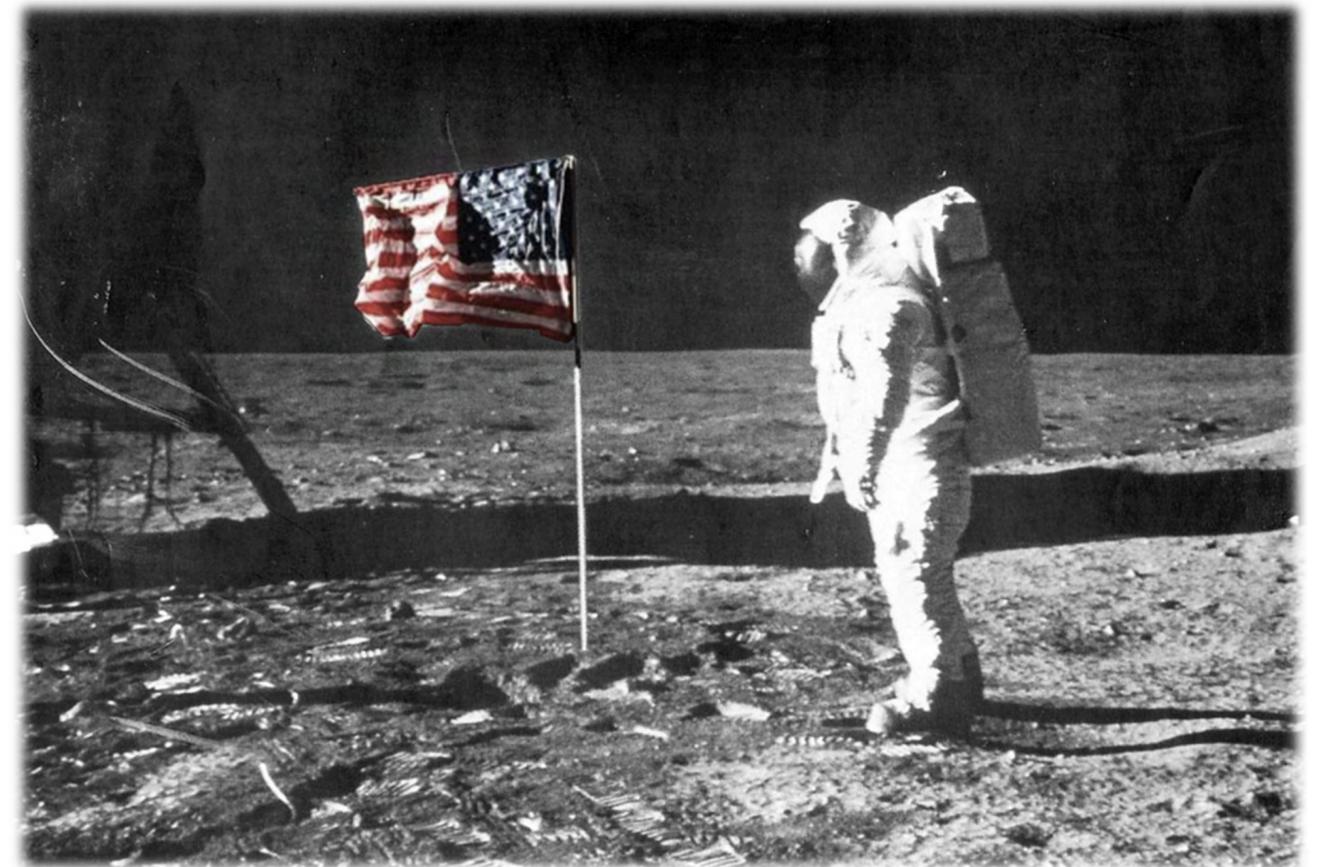
# Resilience and Learned Optimism

Two psychological traits that can help you in life

“Here men from the planet Earth first set foot upon the moon. July 1969 A.D.

We came in peace for all mankind.”

– *Plaque on Apollo 11 lunar module*



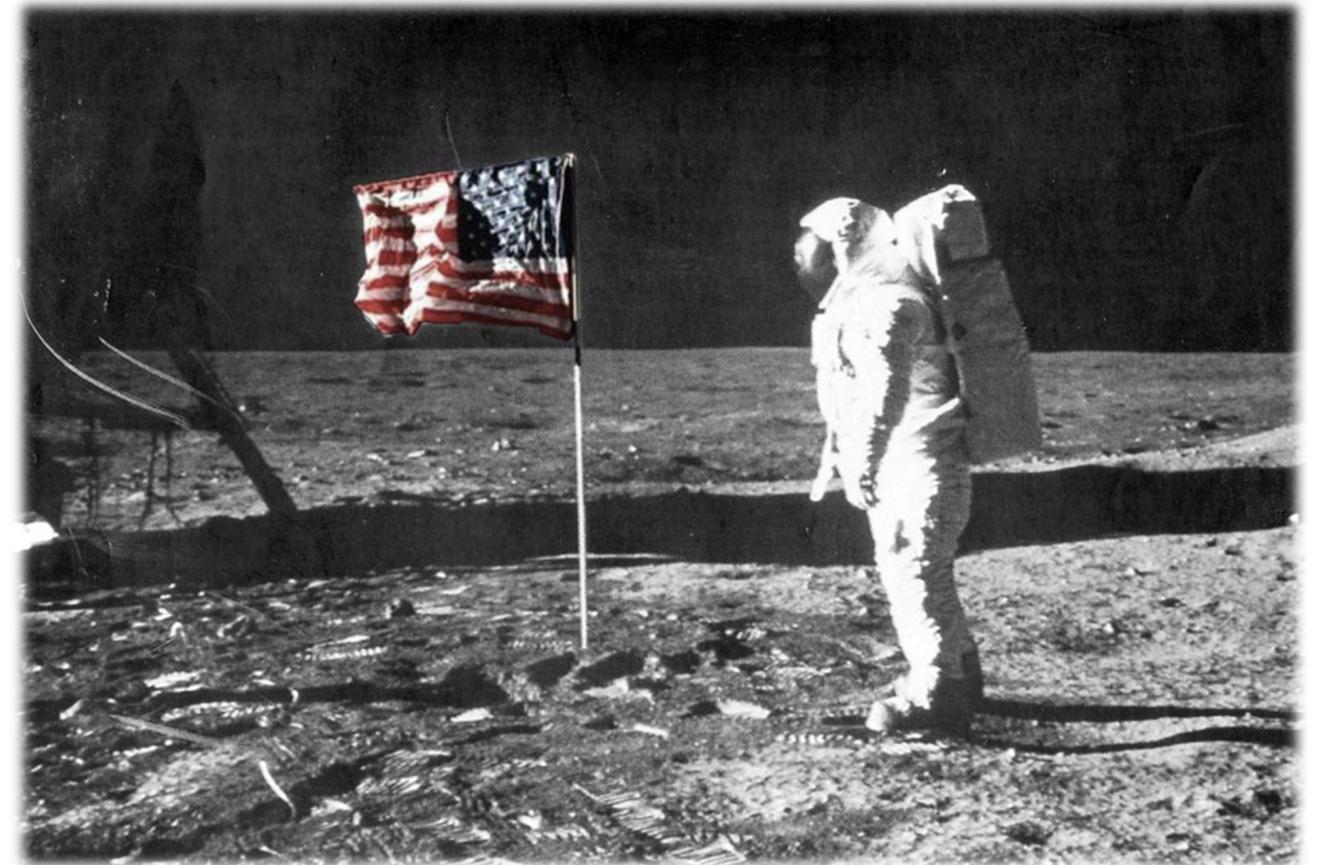


# Psychological Traits

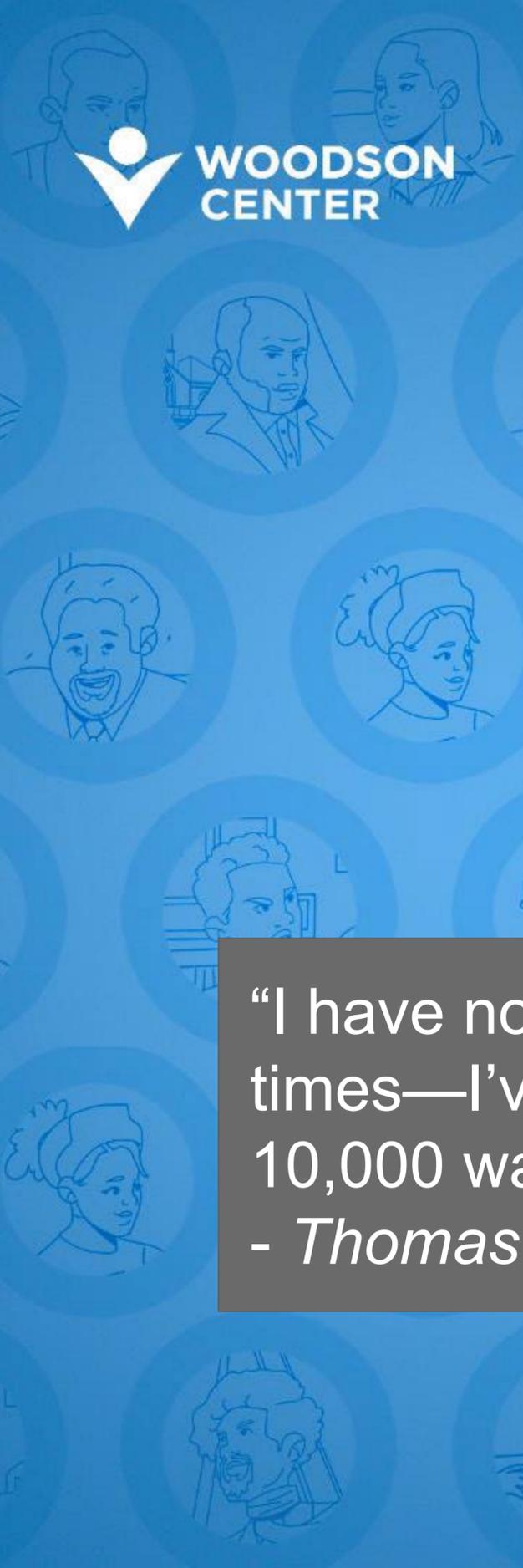
The Apollo space program suffered many setbacks before Apollo 11 landed the first man on the moon.

How were they able to succeed after so many difficulties?

Certain **psychological** traits can help you in life – especially when you’re facing difficult challenges or setbacks.



Let’s learn about two of those traits: **Resilience and Optimism.**



# Definition of Resilience

Have you ever heard a person described as being *resilient*?

What does that word mean to you?

**Resilience is the ability to bounce back after a setback or stressor.**

Do you know any people who seem to keep trying no matter what?

“I have not failed 10,000 times—I’ve successfully found 10,000 ways that will not work.”  
- *Thomas Edison*





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# Are you a resilient person?

Do you think you're good at coping with difficult situations and overcoming challenges?

Do you tend to give up or do you keep trying even when things are hard? Do you believe you will eventually succeed if you keep trying?

*Simone Biles demonstrated resilience when, despite falling during her vault routine, she still won the 2018 World Gymnastics Championship held in Qatar.*



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**“If you run into a wall, don't turn around and give up.**

**Figure out how to climb it.”**

**- Michael Jordan**



# Resilient people rebound

Resilient people tend to be more successful in life. They overcome challenges more quickly and can **emerge** from difficulties with even greater strength and resources.



What kinds of things can a person learn from going through a difficult experience?



# Resilient people rebound

A lot of it has to do with how you “frame” a situation and how you “talk to yourself” about it.





# Resilient people rebound

Let's look at some questions together to think about what "framing" our experiences really means.





# How do you view challenges?

How do you “talk to yourself”?

**Let’s say you have a big test coming up. Which way are you more likely to think about it?**

A: This might take work, but if I prepare properly, I can handle this.

B: This is awful! I’m doomed!

**What about if you messed up on something – how are you likely to think about it afterwards?**

A: That was bad, but it’s over. What can I change so that it doesn’t happen again?

B: I’m such a screw-up! Nothing I do ever goes right!

**How about if you had your hopes set on something, and it didn’t happen?**

A: I’m disappointed, but I’ll keep trying until I succeed.

B: I’m devastated and now I’m going to give up.

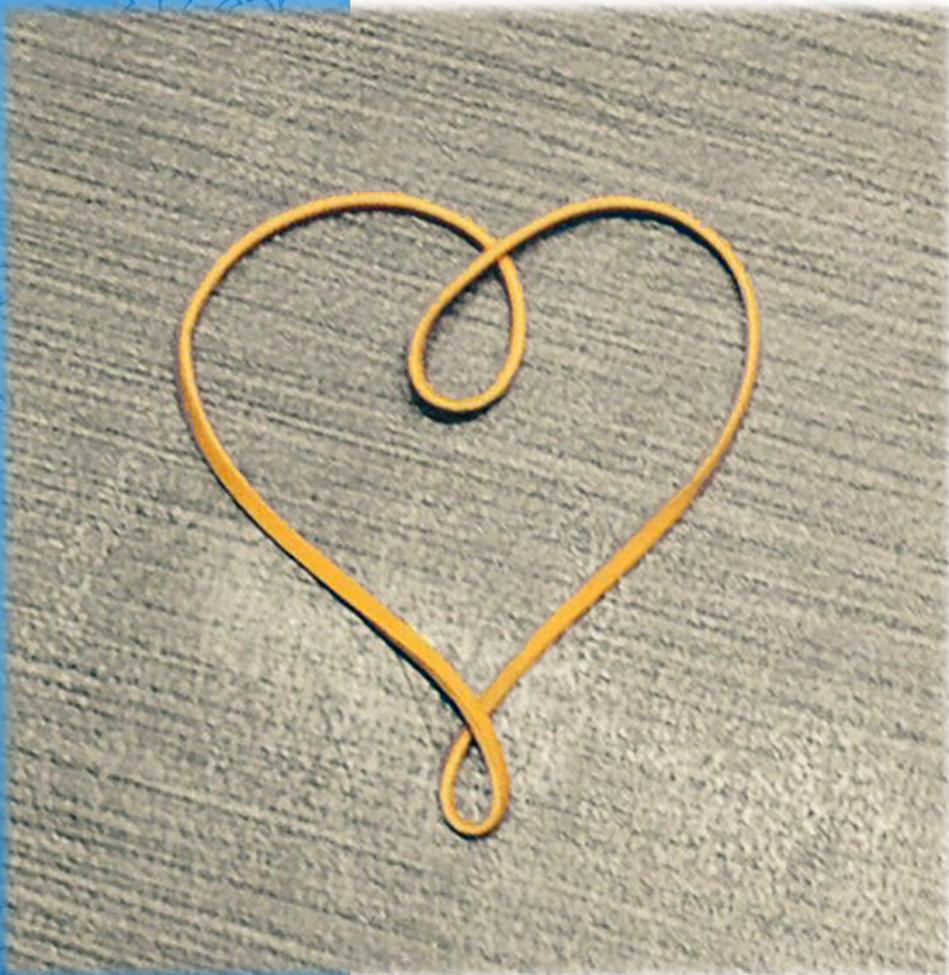
**Which of these two types of responses is more likely to lead to success?**



# Good News: You can become more resilient!

You can practice and learn better ways of framing situations and talking to yourself, so that you can build greater resilience.

**Watch this video for more on learning resilience:**

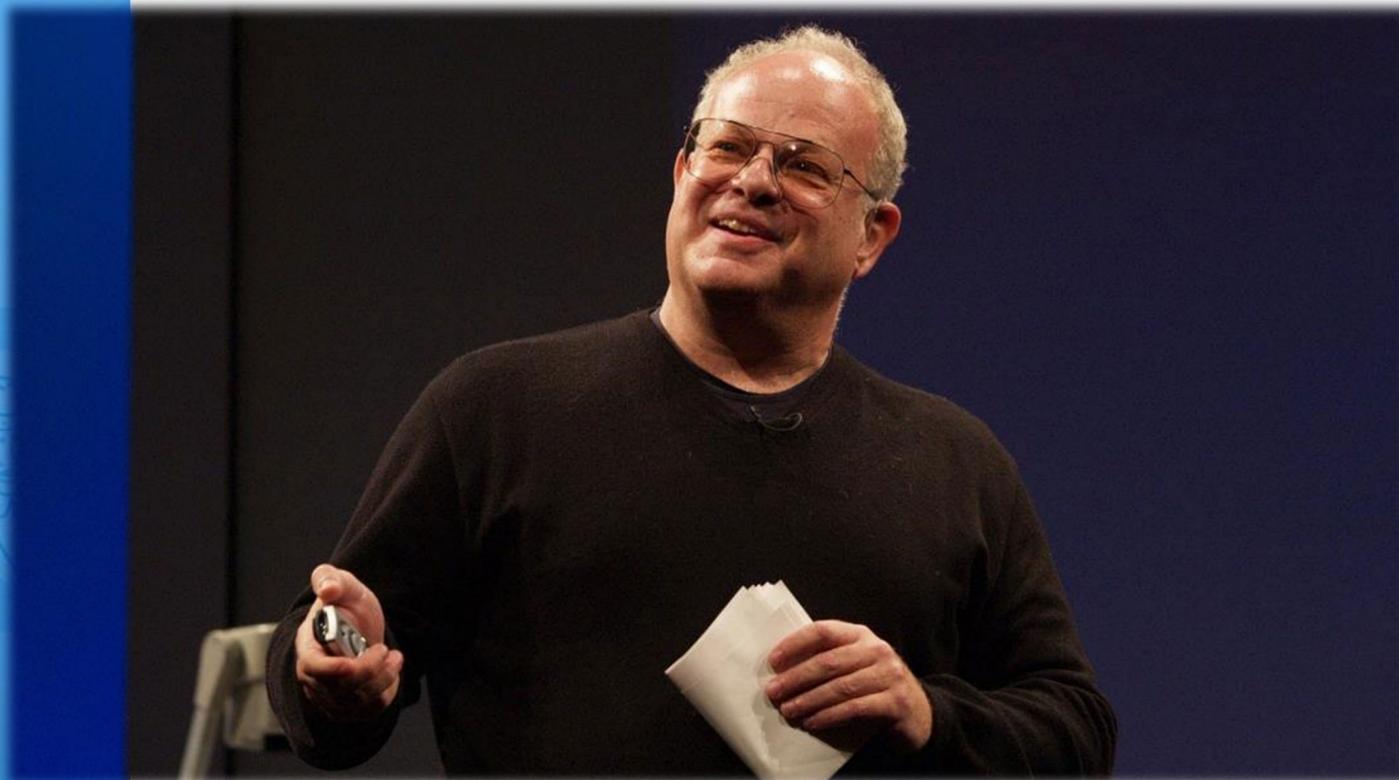




# You can become more resilient!

Professor Martin Seligman of the University of Pennsylvania believes that our way of thinking, and talking to ourselves, plays a major role in how we face difficulties in our lives.

One way leads to growth and success, and the other to greater difficulties.





# An Optimist and a Pessimist: What's the difference?



**Do you know the difference between an optimist and a pessimist?**

According to Professor Seligman's research, the mindset of optimism is more likely to lead to positive outcomes.



# More Good News!

Even if you're naturally pessimistic (many of us are), you can still develop the skill of optimism, so that you have better outcomes in *your* life.

In other words: **you can CHOOSE** the thoughts that you think. So, you might as well choose **thoughts that will *help you in your life!***





# Optimism



We **ALL** experience a bad situation (adversity) from time to time. What matters is what you say to yourself about it.

A pessimist will explain a bad situation to themselves like this:

“It will never change, it’s my fault, and it ruins everything.”

In other words, it’s **permanent, personal, and pervasive.**



# Optimism



An optimist turns this around to make it **temporary, impersonal, and specific.**

In other words, “It won’t last, and even though this one area of my life is affected right now, other parts of my life are going just fine.”



# Learned Optimism

Let's look at a few examples:

You walk into the cafeteria alone, and all the seats where your friends are sitting are taken. You have to sit at a different table.

**What do you say to yourself?**





# Learned Optimism

**The pessimistic response:  
permanent, personal, and pervasive**

*I don't have any friends and no one will ever want to sit with me. They hate me and my day is ruined!*

**The optimistic response:  
temporary, impersonal, and specific**

*My friends are sitting over there today. It's probably because they're all on the volleyball team. Who should I sit with today? Maybe I can make a new friend.*





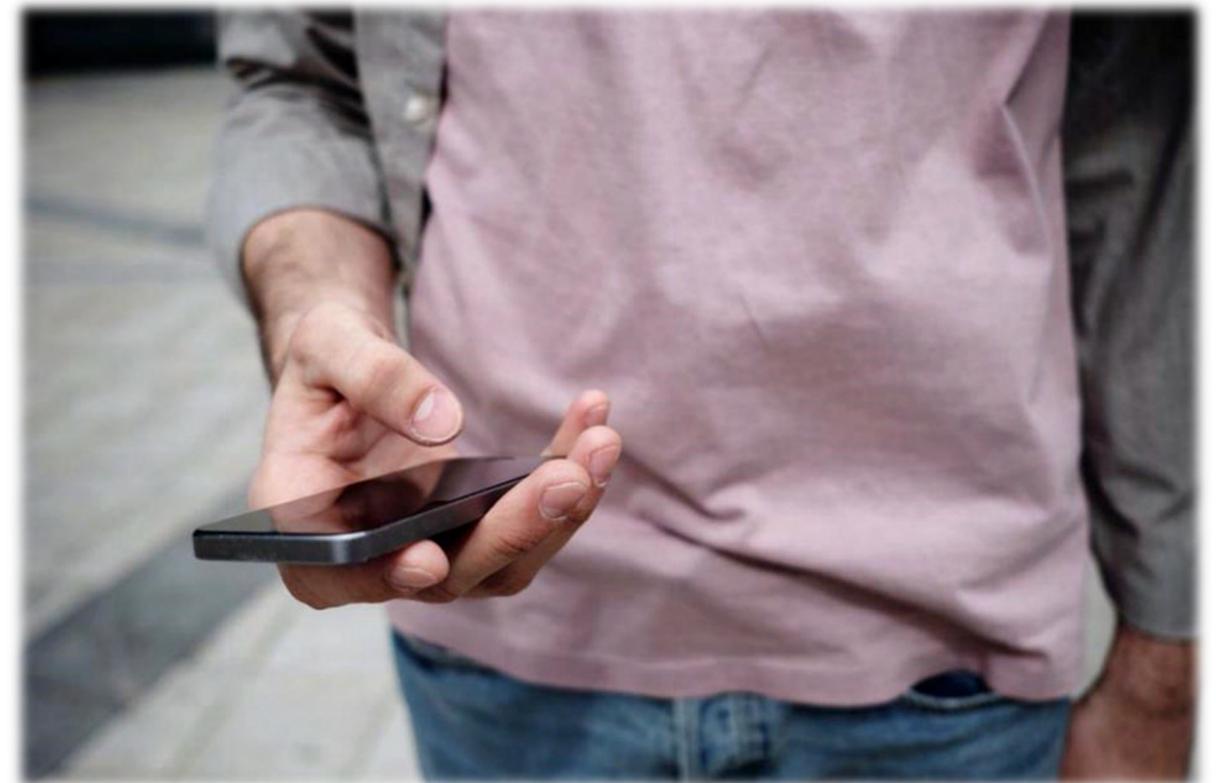
# Practice Learned Optimism

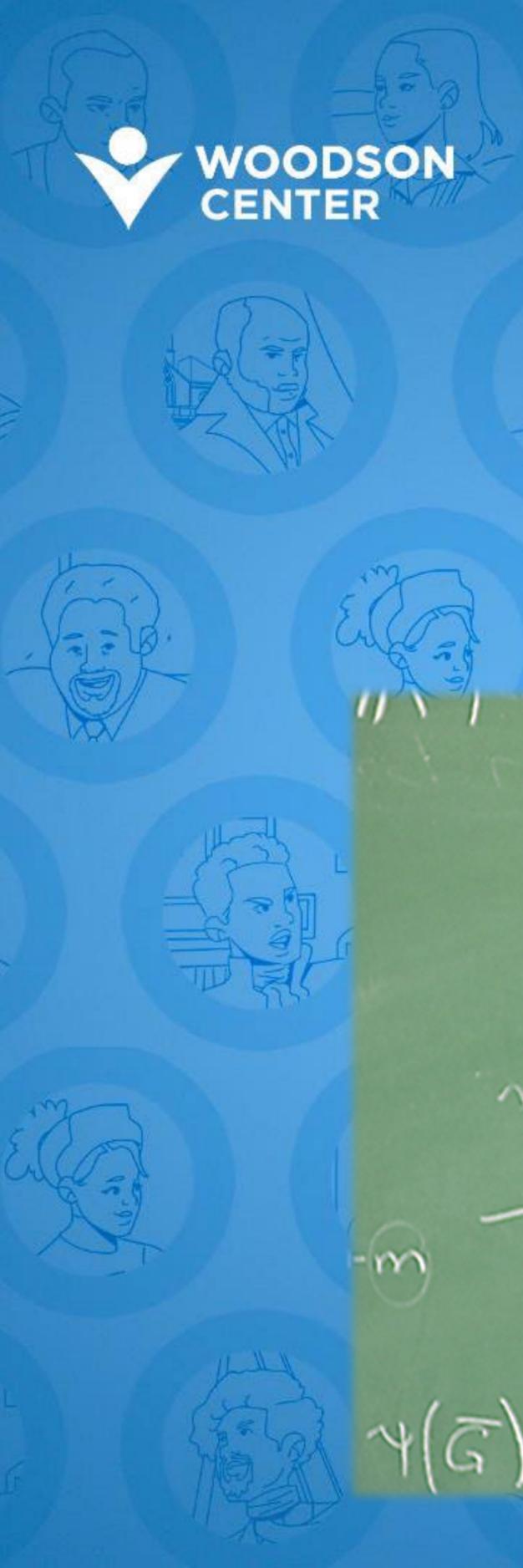
***Think about a pessimistic response to each of the following situations. Then come up with an optimistic one:***

***You invite someone over, and you get turned down.***

The pessimistic response:  
*permanent, personal, and pervasive*

The optimistic response:  
*temporary, impersonal, and specific*



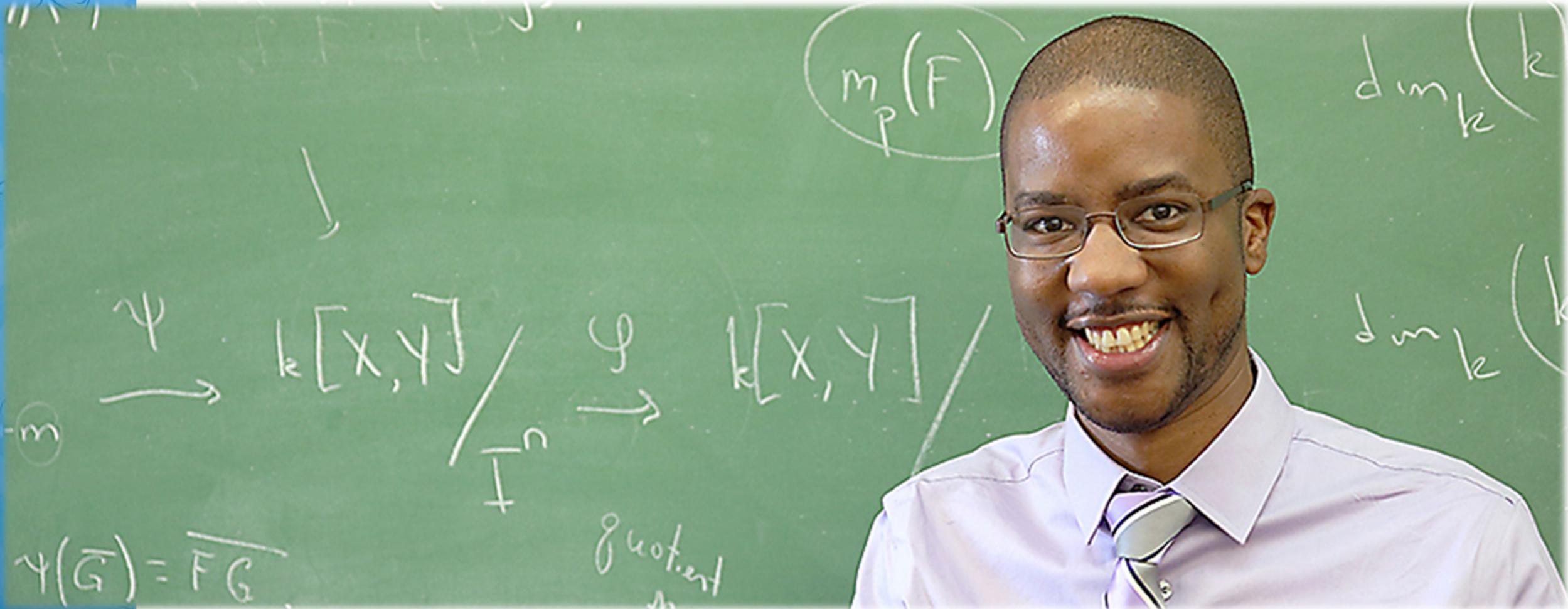


# Practice Learned Optimism

***Your teacher gives a pop quiz in class, and you get a “D.”***

The pessimistic response: permanent, personal, and pervasive

The optimistic response: temporary, impersonal, and specific





# Practice Learned Optimism

*You really wanted to make the team, but got cut after tryouts.*



The pessimistic response: permanent, personal, and pervasive

The optimistic response: temporary, impersonal, and specific

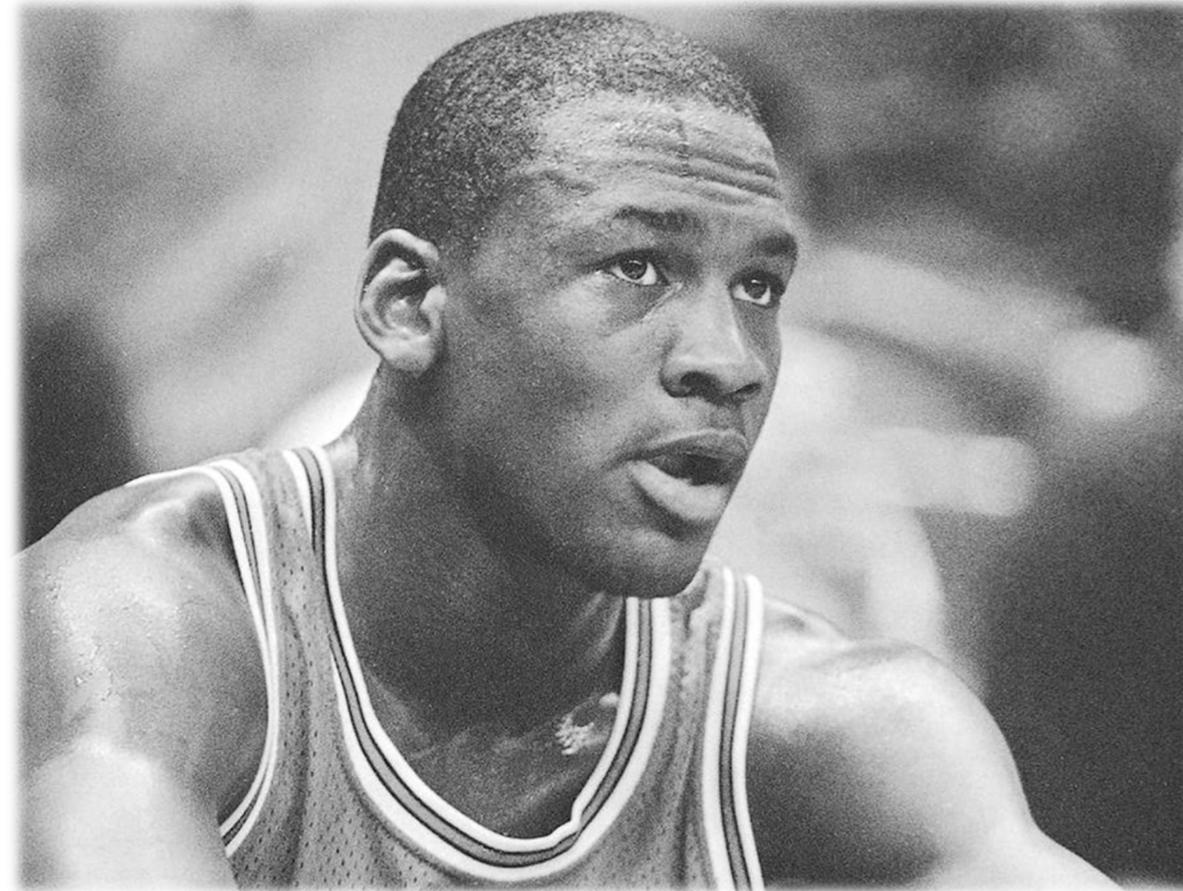


# Optimism

You know who else got cut from the team in high school?

**This guy:**

How do you think *he* responded?



# Optimism



Michael Jordan's response to being cut from his high school's varsity basketball team:

**“Everybody goes through disappointments, it's how you overcome those disappointments.**

**I just wasn't good enough. In terms of the best thing that could happen to me was to get cut, 'cause it made me go back and get caught up with my skill level at my height.”**

*– Michael Jordan*

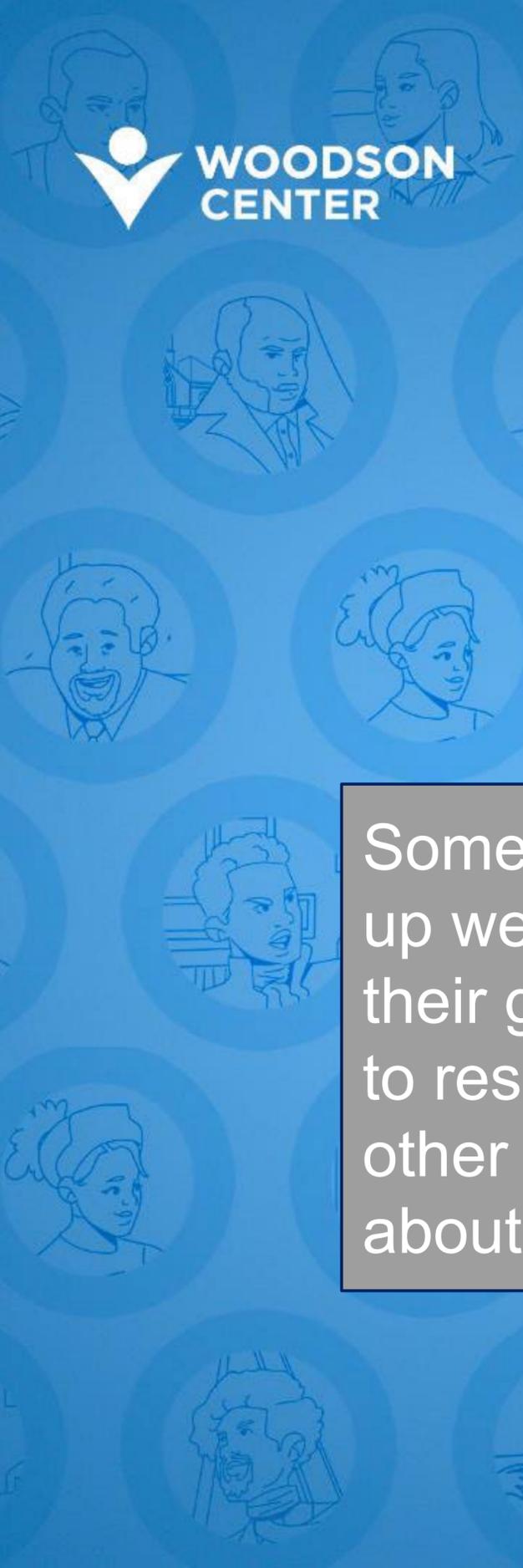


# Practice makes perfect

Optimism is a skill that can be learned, but it takes practice.

Learning to challenge pessimistic thoughts and replace them with optimistic ones reduces **anxiety** and **depression** and increases your ability to overcome and bounce back from life's tough moments.





Your mind is a garden  
The thoughts are the seeds  
You can plant flowers  
Or you can plant weeds

Sometimes gardeners have to pull up weeds that show up in their garden. Have you ever had to resist negative thoughts that other people might try to plant about you?





# What will you plant?





**The choice is yours!**





# Vocabulary

Resilience  
Optimism  
Psychological  
Traits  
Stressor  
Emerge  
Pessimism  
Mindset  
Adversity  
Pervasive

