

URL: <https://stvp.stanford.edu/clips/learn-from-the-past>

Emily Melton, partner at the venture capital firm Threshold (formerly DFJ), discusses how each person's journey to success is unique. There is no universal checklist or perfect template for success. However, she still recommends learning from the experiences of others.



## Transcript

- One of the things that we recognize is no journey is the same for every person.. So as I'm trying to give you advice, this isn't a checklist of here's how to get to be a successful VC or here's how to build a successful company or here's how to do, I hate those, you know? Everybody wakes up at five a.m., everyone somehow works out, meditates, eat well, has great kids and you read it and you're like this is impossible and the reality is, that is always impossible.. There's no checklist, there's no template for success and the same way there's no clear trail that's gonna tell you how to get up this hill.. Every single one of you is gonna have multiple challenges in your own right, every single one of you're journey, it's gonna be different but that doesn't mean that you should go in without actually understanding what's happened in the past or who came before you.. Whenever I have an entrepreneur come and pitch me and they always come in really passionate, I'm gonna disrupt this industry.. Well that's great, why hasn't it happened in the past? Who's tried and failed? What did you learn from those lessons? That's not to say that because it has failed in the past it's going to fail in the future but not actually taking to time to understand what has happened in the past is putting you at risk for the future...