

URL: <https://stvp.stanford.edu/clips/yoda-was-wrong>

The Stanford d.school's Bernard Roth, author of "The Achievement Habit," refutes an oft-quoted line by Yoda in the "Star Wars" movie series, "Do. Or do not. There is no try." Roth says there is: "There's really nothing wrong with trying to do something, and there's certainly nothing wrong with doing it. The problem is when you think they're the same thing."



Transcript

- There's a difference between trying and doing, and the thing about it is, there's this wonderful line in the Star Wars movie, the first one where Yoda, and I'm always afraid when I say this that I'm gonna be struck down dead, but so far I've gotten away with it.. Yoda was wrong, and not in the context that he was doing, but the point is that there is a try.. He said that there's no "try", there's just "do".. And people love to quote that, especially entrepreneurs.. But the point simply is there is a "try" and there's a "do" and they're both okay states.. There's really nothing wrong with trying to do something, and there's certainly nothing wrong with doing it.. The problem is when you think they're the same thing.. And when you think you're doing something, you're really just trying.. And when you're trying, when you hit an obstacle, the lamppost, you get to feed it.. And when you're doing, it doesn't matter if there's a lamppost..

You jump over it, you knock it down, or you walk around it..