



DIVISION OF
Arts and Sciences

Arts and Sciences Division
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Dear Arts & Sciences Students, Faculty, and Staff:

Hello, I am Jason Stone, the Division Head of Arts & Sciences at OSU-OKC. Let's continue our conversation about your future. I am delighted that you chose to invest in yourself and attend to the next video in our series about the Habits of the Mind. The Habit that we are stressing in this video is Taking Responsible Risks.

The Habits of the Mind authors Costa & Kallick discuss this habit as meaning seizing the opportunity. Successful people out there take advantage of opportunities as they present themselves. Thomas Edison once said, "Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work." I like this quote because it simply communicates some important life lessons. Successful people are successful because they understand that opportunity has to be seized, that opportunity involves work. Things are not just going to fall into your lap. Anything worth having in your life will require work and the ability to observe and understand when you have an opportunity.

When you were a kid, you probably enjoyed playing chase or freeze tag. Freeze tag is a great example of how our play can inform our work. Each time you venture off of base and try to get past the person who is "it", you are taking a responsible risk. Those responsible risks are important learning opportunities. You learn very quickly if you are faster than "it". You also learn about taking responsible risks. If the person is much faster than you, it is an irresponsible risk to try to get off the base and past them. You know to venture out and try to make it past them if you know you are faster than they are. This is an example of taking a responsible risk.

This habit is also about living on the edge of your competency. As a professional, you should try to push yourself. You want to venture out and try new things. You can never grow your skills if the only thing you ever do is what you have always done. Benjamin Franklin is a great example of living on the edge of your competency. Benjamin Franklin pushed the boundaries of what he was capable of his whole life. Franklin became a master printer. He helped all of his apprentices set up their own shops. In doing so, he became an investor and the first media magnate in the new American colonies. Franklin was just trying to help those around him get ahead, but in the process grew his skill set and secured his financial security. After he amassed a fortune and no longer needed to worry about money, he was able to turn to science, politics, and diplomacy. As he matured he grew his competencies because he always embraced taking responsible risks.

Please join me and attend to the other videos in this series. Invest in yourself and your future. Attend to your thinking habits. Your mental habits will determine how far you go. Thank you for your time and attention.



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Have a great day and "Go Pokes!"

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