

What the GED Means to Me

Revised selection – original text entitled *Why the GED is Important* by Marcus Gilmore, St. Paul
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Pre-reading

Questions:

- Do you think it's important to have a GED?
Why or Why not?

Definitions:

- GED – General Education Development Test
- Accomplish – to do or finish; to achieve
- Career – the work a person does through life

Reading

17 Having my GED would mean a lot to me. I believe I could accomplish a lot of
34 things in my life. I could further my education. I could get into a career I've wanted
since I was 12 years old. That career is working with computers.

46 I used to dream about computers all of the time. I wanted to program and fix
62 them. I wanted to know everything about them. When I got to high school, I didn't
78 pay much attention to computers. I cut or was late for many of my classes. I was
95 running around doing everything but going to school. I didn't think school was
108 important.

109 When I got kicked out of school, I didn't care. I thought I would just go to
126 work. Since I didn't graduate from high school, it was hard to find a job. If I did
144 find a job, it was a low paying one.

153 I did everything I could to get money. Then, I decided to **pursue** my dream of
169 working with computers. The only way to fulfill this dream is to go to college.
184 However, I can't go to college without a high school diploma. I am taking GED
199 classes so that I can get my GED. Then I can go to college and fulfill my dream.

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Understanding

1. What does the word **pursue** mean? _____

2. Why didn't the author graduate from high school? _____

3. What kind of work did the author find after leaving high school? _____

4. What type of career does the author want? _____

5. How is he trying to fulfill his dream? _____

Writing

Choice A: Retell the story in your own words.

Choice B: Write about your own career dreams.

Choice C: Write about someone you know who got his/her GED.
