Wealthy Affiliate Survival Guide

Welcome to Wealthy Affiliate!

For many of you, logging in the first time was very exciting... and then very *overwhelming*.

There is a LOT going on inside our private community. A LOT!

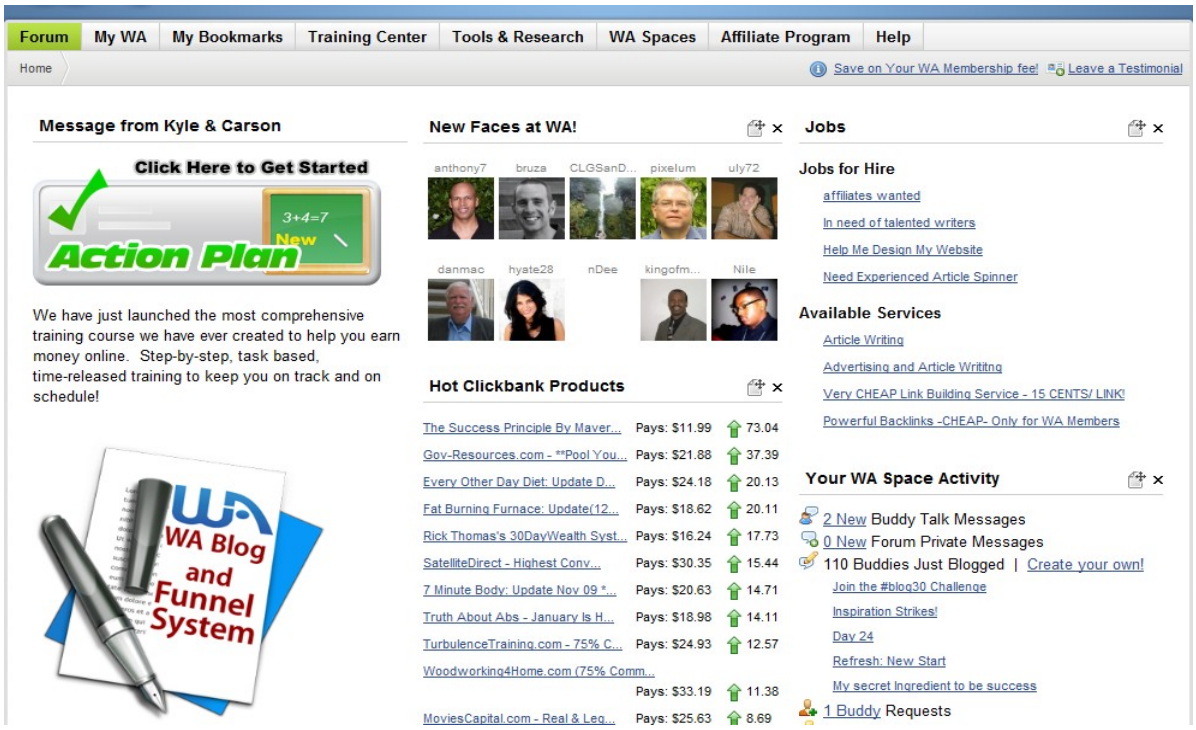
It is very normal to feel overwhelmed, confused, and a bit off-balance when you first walk through the doors – so relax and allow yourself time to become accustomed to your new community.

What I'd like to do is give you a few helpful tips and pointers to get you started in the right direction. These tips are based off my experiences here in WA, things I've seen happen, road blocks others have run into – and, of course, my OWN experience being a "newbie" within the Wealthy Affiliate community.

(Yes, I was a newbie in here once, too – and I lived through it.... So can YOU!)

First things first...

When you first log in to WA, you are greeted by your home page.



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At the top left is the big “Action Plan” link – this is something you want to do (ESPECIALLY if you are brand new to affiliate marketing). This course is time-released – meaning you do not get all of it at once.

Some people don't like the concept of a course being “time-released”, but there is good reason why this specific training is set up this way.

It is to help you *keep* from getting over-whelmed. One thing at a time... learn it, apply it.

You can't walk into college and get your degree all in one day (or one week, or one month), training for your new affiliate marketing business is no different.

Be kind to yourself and allow the Action Plan to help you over time.

Ok, let's move on – each of those modules on your home page can be moved around so that what YOU want to see when you come “home” each day is showing. All you have to do is “grab” them with your mouse and move them where you want them.

Feel free to click things and see what they are – you can't break anything :)

Up at the top there is a menu bar – this menu bar links out to some of the best parts of WA. You can access the forum, the training center, all your tools, affiliate program information, the WA Spaces (each members individual info page and blog) – and the Help Area.

The “My WA” tab will link you out to many things – when you put your mouse over it and see the drop down menu, you will links to a lot of important information.

“My Bookmarks” could turn out to be one of your favorite things. The drop down menu shows a link to our 2010 Las Vegas trip (I was there and it was a BLAST) and below that it will say “manage my bookmarks”.

As you start wandering through WA, you will find things that you want to remember where they are for future use. WA makes it easy for you to save the thing YOU like and “My Bookmarks” will help you easily find them again.

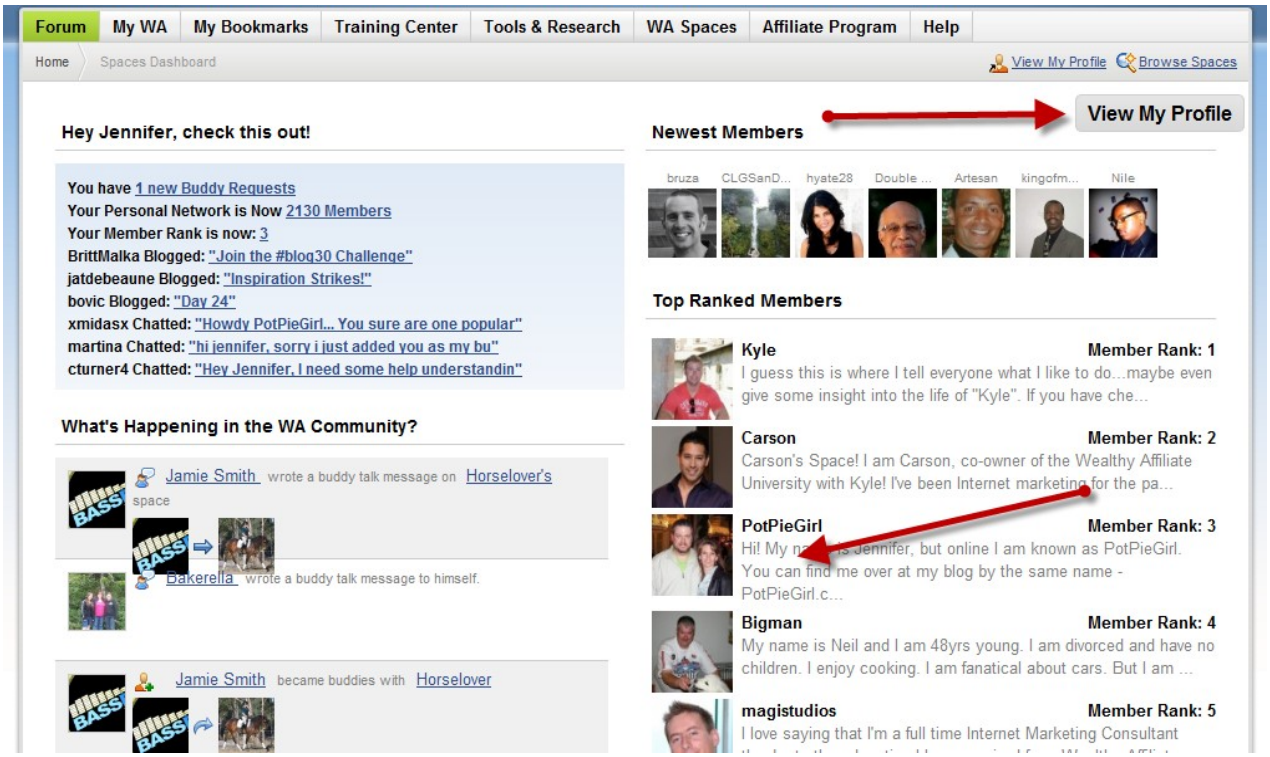
There will be a “help” link at the top right of most pages, tools, and tutorials. Clicking that will give you help information regarding the page (or tool) you are using at the moment.

The “Training Center” and the “Tools and Research” tab are pretty self-explanatory. Just click them and go poking around. As I said before, you can't break anything – and you won't get lost. If you want to get back to your home page, just click “home” at the top left – it's on every page.

What I like for everyone who is new to do is head on over to the WA Spaces area.

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The WA Space main page will look like this:



The first thing I like EVERYONE to do is to create their own personal WA Space.

Wealthy Affiliate is a community of PEOPLE – everyone should have a space and some info about them. Get known, be "knowable", make buddies.... some of your very best network relationships will come from within WA...and a lot of good friends, too :)

Click "View My Profile" (the top red arrow) and make your profile. Add a picture.... tell a little about yourself. If you feel "stuck" as to what to write or talk about, take a poke thru other WA Space profiles and see what others talk about.

Above all, be YOU.

After making your profile, stop by and see me :)

Just click that WA Spaces tab at the top again to get back to the main WA Spaces page and then look down the top-ranked member list. I am currently #3 – just click my picture and come by my space.

Say hello and add me as your buddy (look on the left side of my profile – it says "add as buddy"). I come in at least once a day when I am in town and accept all new buddies. You do not need my permission to add me as a buddy and I WILL accept your buddy request.

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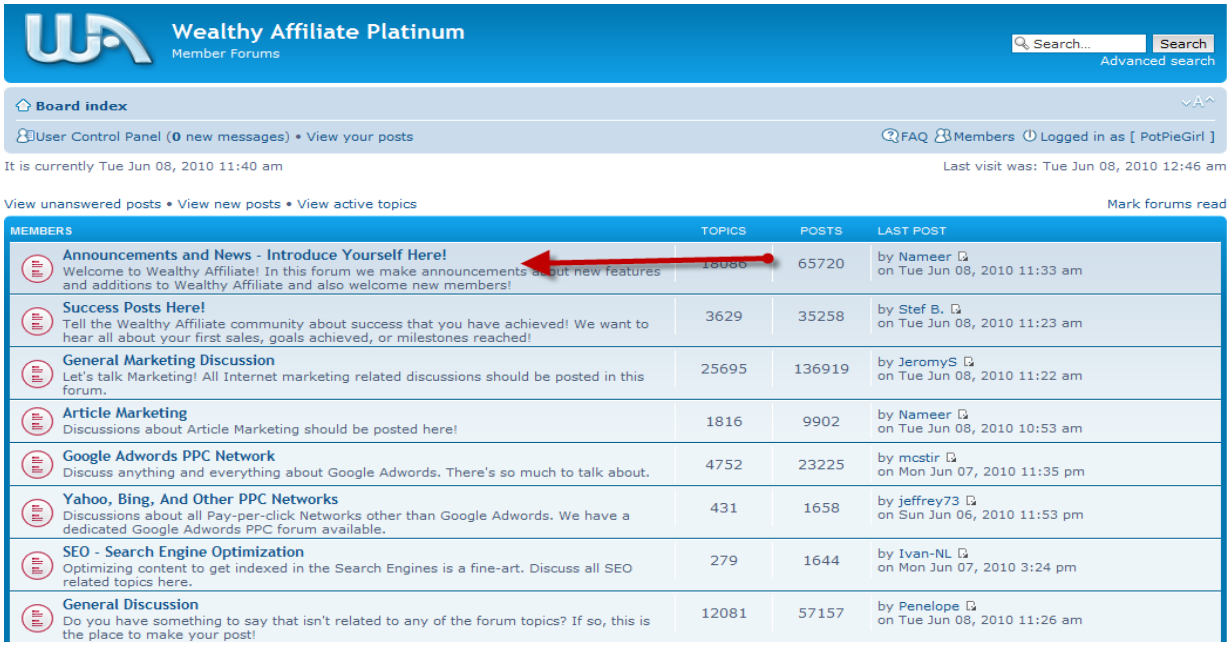
Now, feel free to go “meet” some other members of your community and add them as buddies, too. Get to know folks in here. The people in WA are the best resource of all.

Ok, now you have a space, and a face, and a few buddies on the way.... Good job!

Now it's time to say hello.

Look at the top for the green button that says “Forum”. That is the link to the forum here in WA. When you click that, a new window will open with the main page of the forum displayed.

It looks like this:



Click the “Announcements and News – Introduce Yourself Here” thread.

Then, click “New Topic” at the top left and start a new little thread to say hello to everyone.

You can scroll thru and see what others have written if you'd like a little inspiration, but again – be YOU.

Note: do not ask any technical questions here unless you are absolutely stuck. The reality is, many members don't come into this part of the forum all that often – we are “downstairs” working.

Please don't think I'm rude – in fact, it's quite the opposite. I have really good manners and based on that if I say hello to ONE person, I should be saying hello to ALL people....

and I'd be in that one part of the forum all day long...lol

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If no one replies to your “hello” post, don't worry about it – it's NOT personal. You're just getting that first post out of the way and meeting up with others that are new.

Take a few minutes to say hello to others that have started a “hello” post. This will help you make some friends AND get you comfortable with the forum platform.

Alrighty – you've got a lot done already – good job!

You've got a name and a face and a space and some buddies on the way.... you've introduced yourself AND said hello to others.

The next step I'd like to suggest is probably not one that you'll want to do (do work). If you're like me, you are all about poking around in that forum... and the forum is GOOD. LOTS of great info and actionable advice.... it's great.

I spent HOURS in the forum when I first joined – just reading and reading.

So instead of getting straight to work, let's poke around the forum.

You can click “Board Index” at the top to go back to the main list of sub-forums in WA.

This is the area I refer to as “downstairs” - this is where we all are =)

The Success Posts forum is fantastic for motivation and hearing the stories of other WA members. I have a very popular thread in there (Post #1000 from PotPieGirl) – it can be found at the top.

This is a great “newbie” post to read – but it's long (I talk a lot...lol!)

Take a wander through the other posts... congratulate others, too. Someday that will be YOU and you'll want others to share in your accomplishments, too, right? Right!

The “General Marketing Discussion” forum area is probably the most popular. Each day when I sign in to the forum, that is the first area I go to and answer questions. Then I pop into Article Marketing, SEO, and the General Discussion areas.

Naturally, I can't answer every question, but I try to answer ones that I can with the time I have available.

Some Tips For Success In The Forum

Remember as I said before – WA is PEOPLE? Well, let's keep that in mind when interacting in the forum. We are a private forum – we don't have to deal with all that other cr*p that happens in free forums – and that is a beautiful thing.

When interacting in the forum remember this one thing:

You are ALWAYS representing yourself as SOMETHING.

Someone said that once in a forum thread and I thought it was such great advice.

You are now a professional within a professional forum – act that way.

I don't mean to get all "motherly" on you, but I've seen many people come in and do things that cause others to not want to reply to them, help them, or even talk to them – and I do NOT want that to happen to you.

Do NOT come into that forum with the intentions of promoting your product, your website, your service, etc etc etc. NO AFFILIATE LINKS inside a forum post – period.

There is one small area of the WA forum where you CAN promote a product with an affiliate link and that is the Member Recommended Products area towards the bottom of the main area.

Do NOT come into the forum whining and carrying on, either. If you have billing questions, concerns, or complaints, send that to the site owners. There is not a single WA member that can help you with billing or account issues.

If you choose to post a thread that is unprofessional and/or full of foul language, I will not respond. I try to help those that are trying to help themselves. Making posts like that does NOT show me that you are being professional about your business – or that you are serious about YOU.

If you choose to "flame" another forum member (ie, be rude, insult, get too personal), I won't participate for the same reasons above.

I am not saying "Don't have fun" - I AM saying to mind your manners and be professional. This is not a casual chat forum full of folks who have an illusion of being "invisible" online. We are all real people with the same goal – trying to build a successful online business.

Be as much of an asset to your community as you want that community to be an asset to YOU.

Ok, enough of that...lol!

Here is one the best learning tips I can share with you.

Once upon a time, I was new..... not just new to WA, but new to internet marketing all-together.

I would wander thru various forums and read people's questions. Needless to say, I didn't know the answer – but I would get my little self on Google and go FIND the answers.

This did two things:

1. I helped someone else – or least gave them direction to be able to help themselves.
2. I learned a LOT... A LOT.

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Even all these years later, I still don't know everything – and I never will – but I have learned a ton AND I am really, really good at finding answers for myself when I need them.

That one little tip is worth it's weight in gold – I hope you hear it :)

Time To Take Action

After you've allowed yourself some time to poke thru the forum, let's get you taking some action.

Your time in WA should be split between learning time and DOING time. Try to learn something and DO something every single day that you are able to be online.

No money is made unless action is taken – as in, GET SOMETHING ONLINE.

Now, the WA Action Plan (linked to from your home page at the top left) will walk you through all kinds of ways of making money online, and all the tools, and allllllll that.

What I want is for everyone to get in Wealthy Affiliate and get something online as soon as possible.

I have a tutorial inside the WA Training Center that is suitable for everyone and anyone to get something online right away.

DO IT.

Prove to YOURSELF that you are serious and committed to taking action – AND get that "first thing" out of the way.

You will learn so much more by DOING than by reading, so DO as much as you can each day.

The tutorial I have is called the ***Fast Action Quick Start***.

It will walk you thru how to get your first web page online and working FOR you. It has videos and all that good stuff, too.

And, the technique is totally free to do – all it takes is your time.

The link to that tutorial is:

https://my.wealthyaffiliate.com/share_zone/view/710

Or, just click "Training Center" at the top of your home page – click for the training center homepage and look down the left at the Top Training Resources. Currently, it is ranked #3 overall (and my Squidoo 101 guide is #2).

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Follow that tutorial and DO IT. I promise you, the faster you get something online, the more you will come to love Wealthy Affiliate as much as I do.

Action = Results

When you are in the Training Center area, you will see that there are TONS of training resources in there. Most of these are submitted by other members in order to help each other.

If you have something you'd like to share with your community, please do – just remember, these are NOT promotional guides (ie, NO AFFILIATE LINKS).

This is not like any other affiliate marketing forum out there – we are not here to "spam" each other or market to each other... We are here to learn.

Just a note: As of this writing, I have moderator abilities in the WA Training Center. If I see a "tutorial" that has affiliate links or is blatantly promotional, I will remove it.

I love Wealthy Affiliate and I intend to do my part to keep it as "clean" and as educational as possible.

Also interesting to note: You may notice throughout your time being a member of Wealthy Affiliate that Kyle and Carson (the site owners) will never, and have never, promoted a single other product. They are NOT about getting you to buy other stuff in any shape or form. Not only is that really refreshing, but it goes to show how much they believe in their community.

Yes, these two guys are masters at affiliate marketing (and internet marketing as a whole), but they do NOT market to their own members.

Getting Your WA Membership For "Free"

While I don't ever encourage someone to become a part of Wealthy Affiliate for the WA Affiliate program (ie, so you are able to market WA and make referral commissions), it would be a bad move on my part to NOT mention this that I am about to say next.

It usually only takes TWO members signed up under you in order for YOUR monthly membership fee to be paid for.

Commission is 50% - two commissions equals 100% of your monthly fee – meaning your net cost each month is ZERO.

Yes, you still have to PAY your membership fee each month, but you will also get a payment from the WA Affiliate program which should net you to zero.

Make sense?

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There is a link at the top of the home page that says “Affiliate Program” - you can click that and get all your links and info. Marcus is our guy here in WA that is in charge of helping with the WA Super Affiliate program.

He is AWESOME! Not just a great guy, but a fantastic marketer. Let him help you – it will be a great learning experience.

There is also a special forum for the affiliate program down towards the bottom of the forum list. Feel free to stop in, learn more, and ask questions.

The WA Job Board

For many people, getting some money coming IN is of major importance when they first join Wealthy Affiliate.

There is a “Job Board” here in WA that you can access by clicking “My WA” then “Jobs” on your WA Home Page.

This is where people who need work done post their offers – and those that offer services post them.

If you see a job request that you can do, bid on it. People are always looking for articles to be written, or back links created, and all kinds of stuff. Taking on some “side jobs” while you are learning is a great way to get that income coming IN.

I did it (work for others) and if I did NOT do that, I'm not sure I'd still be around today.

Just something to think about :)

The People

As you spend time inside your WA community, you will come to notice some really successful marketers. Pay attention to them.

Not just WHAT they say, but HOW they say it – how they interact on the forum...things they do away from the forum.

If their style suits you, emulate them.

Now, notice I did not say COPY them (don't ever copy another marketers work – that's tacky and can get you in trouble) – but see if there are things about them that you'd like to apply to your own marketing style.

Speaking of style.... You may also notice that those that are most successful are NOT like “everybody else” - they have their own unique style.

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WA is here to teach you the basic "recipes" for success – once you learn them, you will then move a bit "outside the box" and do things your own unique way.

BUT – you have to learn the basics first. Start at the beginning and give yourself a good, solid education before trying to go all "super marketer".

Wealthy Affiliate is the PERFECT place to do just that.

If I'm not mistaken, all famous chefs started out learning the basics of cooking and then preparing recipes of others... THEN, they went on to creating their OWN recipes – but every famous chef learned solid basics FIRST then built up on that solid foundation.

One last piece of advice before I leave you to get to work...

Ever heard this saying?

In business, it's not WHAT you know, it's WHO you know

Heard that before?

I know I sure have....tons of times.

While I agree with that to an extent, there is something to it that is missing.

I DO believe that WHAT you know is super important. If I didn't "know stuff" I could never help others OR help myself.

Yes, knowing other marketers (especially those I've met here in WA) is also important...

But, I truly think that statement should read:

In business, it's <u>what</u> you know, <u>who</u> you know... and <u>who knows YOU</u>.

In the WA forum, learn... learn a lot. Learn as much as your brain can handle. Knowledge is power.

Also, take time to interact in the forum and get to know other people. You have no clue who might be a very valuable part of your network some day down the road.

Above all, let people get to know YOU.

Sure, I can walk around saying, "Well, I know Kyle and Carson and Marcus and Ryan and Travis and Jay...and....and....and....and...."

But what good does that really do me if THEY don't know ME?

Don't forget.... We all started out new and unknown – every, single one of us.

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Commit to being a part of something bigger than you – the WA community. Commit to learn, to know others, and let others know you.

Don't just "try and see" the things that can make great change in your life – COMMIT to change.

The mindset of "I WILL" and "I AM" will take you a heck of a lot further than, "Let's see..." or "Let's try...." or worse, "When I have time....."

Will it happen overnight?

NO, it will NOT.

Heck, it might even take longer than you are comfortable with.

But getting OUT of your comfort zone is a really good thing. If your "comfort zone" was soooooo great to begin with, you never would have explored options for change in the first place, right?

Every day that you log in to WA and feel frazzled and overwhelmed.... pat yourself on the back.

You are officially OUT of your comfort zone and doing something great for YOU.

If you stick with it, one day that thing that "frazzled" you, will NOT cause you to feel frazzled anymore. That's when you'll know that you have begun to enter a new comfort zone that signifies positive change in your life.

Let yourself accomplish this – give yourself a chance.

Be easy on yourself.... be your biggest fan. Recognize each and every "little" accomplishment you make each day.

I remember when I was a young new mother – boy was I ever overwhelmed!

To me, getting thru the day (yes, just making it thru) with my baby healthy, fed, and content was a huge accomplishment. If I got a shower, too – Wow! Was I ever proud of myself.

Others might think that is silly and insignificant. Oh well. It's not about them.

I know when I am out of my comfort zone and I am fully aware when I manage to get thru it in a way that signifies success for ME.

I've had first days on a new job situations like that, too – as I'm sure many of you have also.

Or the first day in a new school...

Or a first date...

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Lots of firsts that take us out of our comfort zone – but we learn to live, succeed, and thrive in better places if we allow ourselves to stick with it and not give up.

Better – it's what we all want, right?

That's why we're ALL here. And we are all about helping each other get to BETTER.

I wish you all the luck in the world... Above all, I know you can do this – I hope YOU believe in YOU, too.

Jennifer
~PotPieGirl

"If you're willing to do for a year what others won't, you can spend a lifetime doing what others *can't*"

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