

## DREAMIN'S FREE ESSAY *by* DAWSON MALLAY

Sleeping or waking, dreams have always been an important part of who I am. All through grade school, my mind would take some kernel of information out of whatever I was studying and fly with it, my eyes wandering out the window and my imagination moving beyond the limits of space and time. Seeing me like this as I tried to do my homework, my mother would fondly ask, "Where are you? Where have you gone?"

Sleep is key to dreams of the one kind and resting easy is key to dreams of the other kind. The worries of today can stunt our dreams and our hopes for the future, or make us forget them altogether, just as surely as lack of sleep deprives us of those nightly visions that reveal insights to our perceptions of life and the world around us. My dream is two-fold. On the one hand, I want a good job and a bright future so that I can rest easy, provide for a family, and continue to dream. On the other hand, the goal I've set for myself is to help others maximize their own potential, to aid them in leveraging their own decisions, and point them down the road that leads to their own dreams.

The tool I've chosen for myself to achieve this dream is actuarial science, which uses statistics and probability in the decision-making process for businesses and individuals in many fields. If I can help others, even a little, to improve their choices and increase the confidence they have in their decisions, then I will have succeeded in my goals. I'll have helped others to rest easy, removing some of the uncertainty that clouds our mind's eye so that they, in turn, can focus more attention on their dreams, which may yet pay itself forward, onward and upwards, growing the dreams of thousands in the here and now, and more in years to come.

Such a career may sound dull to many, but dreams are the shimmer that makes all things glisten when we know how to look. Whether looking out of windows or otherwise.