William Cooper Nell and the Struggle for Equal Schools

As a young student, William Cooper Nell was awarded the Franklin Medal for scholastic achievement. However, because of the color of his skin he was not invited to attend the award ceremony at Faneuil Hall. This encouraged him to dedicate his life to "hasten the day when the color of your skin would be no barrier to equal school rights." Despite this setback as a young student, Nell led the successful struggle to integrate Boston's schools which happened in 1855. This is a stirring example on how one may have "lost the battle, but won the war."

Tell about a time in your life when you may have lost a smaller battle, but because of it you fought harder and did not give up and you obtained greater achievement.