

# Drama Ministry®

POINT. CLICK. ACTION!

## FAILURE

by JOY L. MASON

**GENRE:** Drama/Light Comedy

**SYNOPSIS:** Tim frets over a term paper that he just received from his professor and is dissatisfied with the comments it received.

**DIRECTOR'S TIP:** This sketch could be effectively performed on a single's retreat or for a young adult class. Try inserting the name of your local college or a professor that is well known by your listeners. Your audience may listen more intently if you personalize it.

**TIME:** Under 5 minutes

**CAST BREAKDOWN:** 2

**TOPIC:** Christian Living

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Psalm 19:14

**CHURCH YEAR SEASON:** Any

**SUGGESTED USE:** Bible Study, Worship Service

**CHARACTERS:**

TIM- a college Freshman, prone to dramatics

ALISON- his friend, a Sophomore or Junior in college

**PROPS:** College term paper, chairs (if necessary)

**COSTUMES:** Modern clothing

**SOUND:** Two wireless microphones

**LIGHTING:** General stage

**SETTING:** College campus

### Drama Ministry

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*TIM is sitting center stage, flipping through the pages of a term paper, reading comments written in the margin. The more he reads, the more agitated he becomes. ALISON enters.*

**ALISON:** Hey, TIM, How's it going?

**TIM:** hey. I just got my paper back from McGrath.

**ALISON:** Oh. How'd you do?

**TIM:** I suppose it depends on your perspective. I thought I did great, but he seemed to think otherwise.

**ALISON:** Yeah, McGrath tends to be like that. Can I see?

**TIM:** I guess. You might be blinded by all that red, though.

*Allison takes the paper and begins to read comments. After a couple, she flips to the back to check the grade.*

**ALISON:** At least he gave you a "C."

**TIM:** At least? A "C"? What are you talking about? This paper is about 40% of the grade; the final will be about the same. If he grades the final like he graded this – then I failed the class.

**ALISON:** Well, I'm not sure a "C" is really failing...

**TIM:** Of course it is. This class is required for my major. What's it going to look like to have a "C" in one of the required classes? Forget going to Grad School.

**ALISON:** Oh, come on –

**TIM:** And then if there's no grad school, there's no fellowships and research grants –

**ALISON:** They're not going to reject you based on one grade.

**TIM:** And without those, then no professorship, and there goes my life of luxury at some Ivy League school. What is McGrath thinking? It's like he's branding me a failure. He's got to know what he's doing when he gives me that kind of a grade. I might as well just have this big red "F" plastered to my forehead.

**ALISON:** *(Reading the paper)* Did you actually read these comments?

**TIM:** Do I really need to? The sheer volume is enough to tell me what he thinks.

**ALISON:** *(Reading off the paper)* "Great start to the thought – why didn't you follow through?"