

PERSPECTIVE

## Too poor to science: How wealth determines who succeeds in STEM

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*STEM is profoundly shaped by wealth, yet financial privilege is rarely acknowledged in discussions of diversity and inclusion. Wealth influences participation, persistence, and recognition in science, affecting not just who enters the pipeline but also who can afford to stay.*



### OPEN ACCESS

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**Abbreviations:** DEI, diversity, equity, and inclusion; STEM, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Behind the pursuit of scientific discovery lies a less-visible truth: a career in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) is economically unsustainable, if not entirely unfeasible, for many. The myth of meritocracy in science collapses under the financial sacrifices expected at every career stage. From unpaid internships and self-funded conferences to underpaid graduate and postdoctoral positions, the hidden costs of ‘doing science’ are profound. These burdens disproportionately exclude those without generational wealth, compounded by race and gender. As federal funding declines and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives are stripped away in the US, financial divides are widening into chasms, making science less accessible, equitable, and innovative. Ignoring these economic realities risks endangering the future of STEM.

Financial barriers emerge early, restricting students’ ability to build academic capital needed for STEM success. Attending a well-resourced and funded high school provides distinct advantages in terms of STEM exposure, preparation, and eventual access to competitive postgraduate programs [1]. Home resources also matter; students with limited access to computers at home consistently perform worse academically [2]. After-school programs improve academic outcomes but costs and transport often exclude students from low-income backgrounds [3]. Summer camps and enrichment opportunities offer vital development [4,5] but are often prohibitively expensive [6], worsening disparities. Many students from low-income backgrounds work during high school to support families, which negatively affects grades, test scores, and long-term goals, even at low weekly work hours [7]. Undergraduate students face additional financial barriers that hinder entry and success in STEM careers [8]. Attending a prestigious (often costly) college or university

# Who Succeeds In Science

**Clemens Wendtner**



## **Who Succeeds In Science:**

## Reviewing **Who Succeeds In Science**: Unlocking the Spellbinding Force of Linguistics

In a fast-paced world fueled by information and interconnectivity, the spellbinding force of linguistics has acquired newfound prominence. Its capacity to evoke emotions, stimulate contemplation, and stimulate metamorphosis is truly astonishing. Within the pages of "**Who Succeeds In Science**," an enthralling opus penned by a highly acclaimed wordsmith, readers attempt an immersive expedition to unravel the intricate significance of language and its indelible imprint on our lives. Throughout this assessment, we shall delve to the book is central motifs, appraise its distinctive narrative style, and gauge its overarching influence on the minds of its readers.

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### **Table of Contents Who Succeeds In Science**

1. Understanding the eBook Who Succeeds In Science
  - The Rise of Digital Reading Who Succeeds In Science
  - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
2. Identifying Who Succeeds In Science
  - Exploring Different Genres
  - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
  - Determining Your Reading Goals
3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
  - Popular eBook Platforms
  - Features to Look for in an Who Succeeds In Science
  - User-Friendly Interface
4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from Who Succeeds In Science
  - Personalized Recommendations
  - Who Succeeds In Science User Reviews and Ratings
  - Who Succeeds In Science and Bestseller Lists

5. Accessing Who Succeeds In Science Free and Paid eBooks
  - Who Succeeds In Science Public Domain eBooks
  - Who Succeeds In Science eBook Subscription Services
  - Who Succeeds In Science Budget-Friendly Options
6. Navigating Who Succeeds In Science eBook Formats
  - ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
  - Who Succeeds In Science Compatibility with Devices
  - Who Succeeds In Science Enhanced eBook Features
7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
  - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of Who Succeeds In Science
  - Highlighting and Note-Taking Who Succeeds In Science
  - Interactive Elements Who Succeeds In Science
8. Staying Engaged with Who Succeeds In Science
  - Joining Online Reading Communities
  - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
  - Following Authors and Publishers Who Succeeds In Science
9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books Who Succeeds In Science
  - Benefits of a Digital Library
  - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection Who Succeeds In Science
10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
  - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
  - Minimizing Distractions
  - Managing Screen Time
11. Cultivating a Reading Routine Who Succeeds In Science
  - Setting Reading Goals Who Succeeds In Science
  - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
12. Sourcing Reliable Information of Who Succeeds In Science
  - Fact-Checking eBook Content of Who Succeeds In Science
  - Distinguishing Credible Sources
13. Promoting Lifelong Learning

- Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
  - Exploring Educational eBooks
14. Embracing eBook Trends
- Integration of Multimedia Elements
  - Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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