

“How my Positive Outlook Benefits my Community”

771 words

Whether or not it is intentional, the attitudes of the individuals with whom one surrounds oneself directly alter one’s perception of the world, be it a positive or negative outcome.

Sometimes, one’s outlook can completely influence a community. Since realizing this, my goal has become to be that one individual who will bring about a better future than would have existed with my absence.

I must admit, however humbling it may be, that I have not always had a positive outlook; I was once a pessimist. When I had a negative attitude, it seemed that everything conspired against me, yet when my outlook changed, so also did my entire world. I was re-introduced to the world I lived in. A dark and hopeless world was replaced with one abundant with opportunity and a bright future.

Once my attitude had changed, my peers seemed happier, my talents seemed abundant, and my life seemed all the more valuable. The positive outlook I have adopted has allowed me to transgress any troubling situation with a sense of hope for prosperity, but that is not the greatest benefit of such an attitude, for the greatest benefit is the way that a positive outlook can change others by osmosis.

I have been a part of the peer mentor program at my high school. Volunteering high school students are responsible for one middle school student for who to be a role model. Ironically, I, the one who had not so long ago been a pessimist, was entrusted with a student who

had a very negative outlook on life. I saw in him the same attitude I had once clung to, and I sought to overthrow his negativity in light of optimism.

After spending an hour a day with him, five days a week for a marking period, I got to know him and he started to understand the possibilities that existed for him, in spite of his previous track record which he believed had already doomed him to failure. I explained to him that he had the talent and ingenuity to overcome challenging circumstances and rise above his preconceived notion of failure. He has since changed his attitude and grown as an individual, a student, and a member of the community, but he never would have if optimism had not been embraced within my own life.

However, this is not the end to the benefits of my personal decision to adhere to positivity in my life. This small timeframe in which I altered a young boy's life is only the first instance. I have been entrusted with several positions of authority with which I can further positively influence my peers.

First, I am one of the captains of my school's wrestling team. Within a competitive sport, there is no limit to the amount of determination needed to look in the face of almost certain defeat and still give one-hundred percent. My outlook, and that of my fellow captains, transfers that determination to our teammates. We won our first and only match so far even with several freshmen in our scarce varsity lineup, and we placed third out of ten schools-all of which were larger in size than we are in our first tournament.

Next, I am the section leader of both bass and tenor sections in my school's Honors Choir. Whether the song is seemingly impossible to learn or our teacher is giving us a difficult

worksheet on the minutiae of sight reading, I encourage my fellow students to persevere. Just from encouraging my classmates and trying to encourage respect for our teacher, I have already noticed a drastic improvement in the overall tone of the class, not just the bass and tenor sections.

Finally, I have been endowed with the status of being a senior in high school, a title of gravitas in a school containing sixth through twelfth grades. Although this is not an official title, it is indeed the one with the most impact on my community as a whole. The example I set by never using profanity, never being late to class, never disrespecting teachers, and always aspiring to improve, have already begun to change the atmosphere in my school as a whole.

The bar is always being set higher today, whether it is in athletics or academic achievement, but the area in which people really need to raise the bar for the next generation is in the example we set in the lives we lead. If others embrace an optimistic attitude, the positive results I leave behind will endure and prosper in my local community and eventually, the global community as well