

“Respect”

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Can you define respect without using the word “respect”? Most people can’t, even though they know how to be respectful. Respect is defined as a deep feeling of admiration for someone when considering their admirable traits. In my community, how have we shown respect in the past, in the present, and how can we in the future?

Klamath Falls, Oregon is my local community. Klamath is considered to be an agricultural city, as it generates about \$368 million in agricultural production. Keeping this in mind, we need to remember what it took to get where we are today. In 1866, in the area we now know as Klamath Falls, cattle ranching began. Unfortunately, large-scale farming was impossible due to the wetlands. In 1867, George Nurse founded the town of Linkville which was renamed as Klamath Falls in 1893. In 1906, we started to drain the wetlands, knowing the importance of farming. This completed a project known as the “Klamath Project”, and our community started farming. Throughout those years, the amount of respect that was shown for farmers in our community was outstanding. The community of Klamath Falls knew the necessity of farmers growing crops and cattle ranching for food. For this reason, they helped finish the Klamath Project, showing their abundant appreciation and respect for the farmers.

Presently, Klamath Falls has an organization called the Pregnancy Hope Center. The organization was formed “to bring compassionate hope and help to women and teens who are unprepared for pregnancy”. As well as hope and compassion, the organization does not judge or criticize these mothers. Instead, they respect them for everything they have endured, and support them for the long but amazing road ahead. This positively improves hope and mental health for the mother especially if they don’t have an external support system. The Pregnancy Hope Center also provides free pregnancy tests in a judgement free environment. This environment helps the mother make decisions on what is best for her and not on biased opinions from judgemental

people. This organization works with our local community to give the mothers the respect they deserve.

As well as the Pregnancy Hope Center, the National Association for Family and Community Education was founded in Washington D.C. in 1936. Their mission is “to promote a better way of life for all through fellowship, continuing education and service; to provide guidance in our homes and communities by the uniting of people to make the world a better place in which to live.” The NAFCE shows abundant amounts of respect for our community members. They develop and teach lessons to individuals and families, fight against human trafficking, provide scholarships to students, and provide contest opportunities for students like myself to participate in. The FCE shows respect to all people from various backgrounds because they know everyone has potential for great things.

How can we show respect in the future? Think of the many world issues going on right now. Almost all of it could all be solved by having respect. A major issue in our country is political disagreements, but we should all be acting like one big community. Some people riot and destroy property because they disagree with someone else’s political view. In other instances, people “roll coal” with their loud trucks on peaceful protests because they don’t agree with others political views. Most of the violence that is going on in our country right now is due to the lack of respect. Respect doesn’t mean you absolutely have to agree with someone else’s opinion, but instead listen to them and respect them for drawing their own conclusions and making beliefs. Many people have a lot of traits in common such as liking a videogame, having a hobby, believing in a religion, but what we don’t realize is we are too focused on political views. No matter someone’s opinion, we need to respect them for it and instead of finding our differences, find commonalities. Know that there are two or more sides to anything but “sides”

aren't the truth. If we want to be respected for the way we view things, then we need to respect others for their views as well. We are all one big community.

Respect has been shown in many different ways throughout our community. In the past, present, and future, respect has almost proven to be a necessity of life. Not only is it important to know what respect is, it is important to know how to build it. Psychologically, our brain is built to analyze situations. This includes, scenarios, places, people, etc.. Often, our brains jump to conclusions and immediately judge someone by their appearances or how they speak. For example a big man with multiple tattoos and piercings can be seen as sketchy, dangerous, or gang affiliated. In another instance, a young pregnant girl can be seen as an irresponsible teenager. In reality, we don't know peoples back stories. We don't know if the man with many tattoos is actually dangerous, or maybe he's just a biker with a loving family. We don't know if the young pregnant woman was actually irresponsible or had to endure the outcome of an unfortunate situation. So to build trust, we can't judge people off of their appearances. We need to get to know them, and try to hear their story. If they don't want to share their story or anything about themselves, we need to respect them for their decision and for the endless possibilities of situations they've gone through.

The past, present, and future have, and always will, need respect. Respect is mutual, so we need to respect and understand others before expecting it back. No matter what, we always need to think about how we can show respect presently and in the future, and how respect has impacted our community in the past. We should apply respect to our everyday lives.

References

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