

First place essay, middle school category

A Way of Life

‘If you want to be happy for an hour; watch TV. If you want to be happy for a day; go to an amusement park. If you want to be happy for a lifetime; go out and help others.’ My social studies teacher, Mr. Bisanz, is very inspirational. His life is based upon this quote.

Following in Dr. King’s footsteps, Mr. Bisanz has touched many lives with his dream to help others. He has taught many of his own students his vision of leadership through service. Through his actions, all of his students understand how helping out can be fun as well as satisfying.

He has taught us how easy it is to be apart of service learning with his classroom projects. For example, some of his projects have included; knitting newborn blankets and beanies for less fortunate families, also making Halloween cards for the terminally ill children in hospice care. By combining service projects and teaching, he has shown us how service learning can be a way of life.

In all, Mr. Bisanz has taught his vision of leadership through service to many people. Inspiring those people to want to touch a life and get a feeling of satisfaction. Service learning is a way of life; because of his teachings, all of Mr. Bisanz’s students understand how that can be fun and easy to do. Therefore, if you want to be happy for a lifetime; go out and help others.

Amy Tamowski, 8th grade, Poston Jr. High, Mesa

Second place essay, middle school category

Everyday MLK

Let's face it. Not everyone is going to be the next Martin Luther King. Not everyone has a chance to be the next president of the United States. But we can all make a difference. We can all be leaders. Pick up a piece of litter, stand up to a bully, make someone feel good about themselves.

A perfect example of Martin Luther King's dream of leadership through service is my cousin Natalie. No, she is not fighting in Iraq, or building homes for the poor. Natalie is helping an old woman with her groceries, giving a lost, little boy directions, or picking up a candy wrapper that isn't hers. These random acts of kindness and citizenship make my cousin a hero because when you're around her, you want to help too. You're happy to serve you community and feel great! If we were all a little more like Natalie, the world would turn into a better place, one piece of litter at a time.

Emily Caplan, 7th grade, Cocopah Middle School, Scottsdale

Third place essay, middle school category

I compare My grandpa Dale to Martin Luther Jr. I compare them because My grandpa helped kids with a drug problem. He also Worked with a Church program and Went all over the place for them. My grandpa was also extremely athletic he played football, baseball, softball, and tennis. Martin Luther came into this world to Make a difference. He made a huge difference trying to make blacks more free. My grandpa was trying to keep kids off the street, he adopted about 7 Kids during his lifetime. These kids had a horrible life before he adopted some of them had been beaten, had alcohol forced in them but My grandpa made there lives different. This is why I have comparred these two. Thank You for your time in reading this.

Brandon Stout, 8th grade, Desert Heights Charter, Glendale