

## Community Growth Through Integrity

A community always has room for improvement. I am committed to improving my community socially, economically, and environmentally. I will take steps to enhance the quality of lives for others and myself. My community is satisfactory; however, it's not perfect. I will use the power that I have to help the people around me.

I'm active with Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). I represent my school, Yorktown Middle School, in our district FCA program. This began as groups of athletes getting together to talk about their lives as Christians who participate in sports. It has expanded to being available not only to athletes, but to anybody interested in learning about God's word. Every Wednesday, my school has a gathering in the morning with the FCA program. I've spoken multiple times at FCA. I strive to inspire any students interested in listening to what is spoken. If people in our community can be disciples of positive teachings, our community will grow. Even if students don't accept the Christian principles I preach, I hope they can learn and share how to grow as a person.

In 2015, a National Citizen Survey (NCS) was taken in Yorktown. Citizens voted economics as a top priority for the Yorktown community. Economics were the only facet that was lower than the national benchmark. A majority of people in Yorktown live satisfactory lives though. The poverty rate in Yorktown is 8.21%, compared to the United States poverty rate of 12.3%. The median household income in Yorktown is \$62,372. The United States median household income is \$59,039. However, a dominant piece of contradicting evidence is unemployment rate. The rate for Yorktown is 4.3%. This is a small amount higher compared to the national average of 3.6%. Economic growth starts with a low unemployment rate. We need to continually advocate for the importance of work in our community. We also need to guarantee

children are being educated adequately, and raise awareness for the importance of education. If children do not obtain suitable education, they won't get a decent job. A low quality job is virtually equivalent to unemployment. We can do things such as make informational posters, create awareness videos, and lecture students to raise the seriousness of acquiring a valuable education and a fine job.

My community has taken steps to improve the environment. We have a recycling program available to anyone who resides in Yorktown. Recycling is beneficial in ways such as conserving natural resources, protecting wildlife by reducing waste, and saving energy. Recycling is necessary in maintaining a clean environment. We need to continue to support and use recycling programs in our communities. In 2016, our Town Council released a water report that includes tips to save water. These tips include inspecting for leaks, turning off water when it's not being used, moving sprinklers to the most efficient position, using a broom to clean outdoors instead of a hose, and more. Informing family and friends on these environmentally-friendly tips will be beneficial. The best way to help the environment is to lead by example. An admirable environment will lead to community growth.

If we execute items in this essay to improve socially, economically, and environmentally, we'll see growth in our community. We need to be leaders, and share positive thoughts with other people. We have to share with children the importance of getting a suitable education and a decent job. We must be conscious of everything we do and how it affects the environment. With leaders showing outstanding integrity in our community, we will see exponential improvement in our lives.

Word Count: 600

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