

My Personal Integrity

Integrity is the most important quality that an individual can cultivate. Integrity is doing what is right by your fellow man regardless of peer pressure, personal gain, or your own pride. It takes a great amount of humility, honesty, and honor to be a true person of integrity, and I believe that I have shown these attributes in the following areas: my school, home, and workplace. The cultivation of integrity always takes diligence and work.

As Student Body President, I set an example for the rest of the school, and I put my effort into inspiring the students to think honorably and to consider our community. For instance, I used my position as a student body officer to coordinate a school wide service day for police and other first responders. I encouraged the elementary students to decorate coloring pages and design boxes. I started a drive for middle and high school students to bring in snacks, drinks, and desserts; and I inspired students of all ages to write letters of appreciation. Along with other student body officers, I delivered the boxes to our policemen, firefighters, and EMTs to thank them for their active role in our community. This is one example of how I hope to spur our student body on to act with integrity and honor. As a student, I am presented with many opportunities every day to participate in activities that do not uphold honesty or integrity. To the best of my ability, I am faithful in turning in my assignments on time and completely, and I work to do my best in every subject and class. I do my work honestly and strive to stretch myself and grow.

I have also made it a priority to demonstrate integrity at home, as I hope to give my little brother a good example to look to. One way I try to exemplify integrity is by honoring and respecting our parents. Proverbs 30:17 says, "The eye that mocks a father, that scorns obedience to a mother, will be pecked out by the ravens of the valley, will be eaten by the vultures." I go out of my way each night to ensure that she gets time to rest. I often cut her off from the chores or cleaning that she is doing and take them over for her. I have watched my mother work so hard over the years, and I have found that by doing these things, I can give a little bit back to one of the people that has given the most to me. Dishonoring my parents would bring me nothing but folly and heart-ache. I try to honor them by taking initiative around the house

and completing tasks that I see need to be done. I fulfill my routine chores without being told, and I make sure to take care of them on their rough days. I cook dinner occasionally to give my parents a break after working all day, and I watch my brother when they are busy.

Finally, I have shown the quality of integrity in the newest facet of my life--the workplace. Finding opportunities to show integrity in this area is a big step for me, as it is my first experience in the workforce: preparing me for after college. Colossians 3:23 speaks to always doing my best. It says, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters." I apply this to my current work situation. I honor God at my job at a car wash by treating my coworkers with kindness and compassion, as well as respecting my managers. I showed integrity here specifically, when I ran errands for my managers on several occasions. My manager sent me out multiple times with her credit card to go pick things up for our store. I could have taken these opportunities to take a break from work and slack off; I also could have purchased things for myself, and none would be the wiser. Sending me out on these errands proved to me that I had gained a lot of trust; that is something to always be treasured. I believe that putting forth my best effort even when I feel like I do not have to is what true integrity really looks like.

Integrity is a trait that is falling out of our world today. Stephen Lovegrove described integrity as "a life where your beliefs and intentions are aligned with your words and actions." I love how he emphasizes that integrity is a "life." I can not go about talking about how I have integrity in my personal life without showing it on a daily basis. Integrity, if only had at certain times, is, in fact, a lack of integrity itself.

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