

## Why Virtue Matters - Virtue Essay Competition 2015 Finalists:

### Courage

Courage. That **seven letter** word that affects all **seven billion** of us. Why is it so important? You may ask, but courage, to me, defines the difference between being fearful, and, being feared.

Yet, the most important question you may ask yourself is probably...."What does courage mean to you?" If it's speaking **in public**, telling somebody how **you really feel** or even just being able **to face** a fear, it's all related to yourself being able to *defy* anything that seems impossible to YOURSELF, not to everyone else.

We all may have a stroke of courage in ourselves, but it's those who think the unthinkable that are the most courageous of us all. To me, Steve Jobs definition of courage is the most inspiring "Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life.", which expresses the long, long, long struggle of knowing that LIFE IS SHORT, and the only way out to enjoy it is to get through it. Courage and Perseverance intertwine.

Virtue also plays the part in courage as being virtuous is defined as 'of having high moral standards'. This *links* with courage as, with perseverance, **we can** become someone who is a role model to others. DON'T think that you are not worthy of becoming virtuous as **we all** have our own virtues, think about it...

EVERY man or woman who fights for our country strikes me as extraordinary, for being able to face danger and to not back down... That's what it's called being brave. The profound soldiers of today are the **most** idealistic of us all, by defying everything that makes us human so that they can grow as an individual. TRULY SPECTACULAR.

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Courage benefits us all within our lives, as **one person** can influence **one million** of us. Without courage, we would be nothing as courage forms us all as a person. Many understand the importance of courage when we are close to death, as we need courage to confront our biggest fear of it. DEATH, it's such a startling word isn't it? Lisa Lynch has inspired me about the way she confronted death, who decided that death is not an option and, that having the courage to face death, would hinder any discouraging thoughts. TRULY INSPIRING.

We all consider what the future will behold for ourselves, but these fantasies are all related to courage in one way or another. If asked, "Who will you be in the future?" You'll probably say that you want to be BETTER... but what does this mean? **It means** that we want to improve ourselves; and many do this with the help of courage. WE CAN become better if we overcome fear by taking action instead of just thinking about it TRULY POWERFUL.

So? What next?? Try, try, try, try, TRY TO OVERCOME FEAR. DO IT. If **you** try **your** best you'll be unstoppable. It's just that simple. GO FOR IT! YOU CAN DO IT! So, are **you** ready??

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