



Scholarship Essay

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There are three character qualities that can bring a successful and honorable life to an individual - these are leadership, character, and service. Each takes on an important role when it comes to the work-force and academics, which is why the importance of understanding and maintaining these good behaviors can lead you to great success. Leadership can be defined as building a strong bond between follower and leader. This is what builds trust within the relationship, alongside good communication, which leads to character growth. Although character is generally viewed as having strong wit, and looked at as having good morals, it also has to do with having good judgment whether this judgment may be on yourself, or from another individual. Service is the practice of lending a hand, for yourself or another reason, and this is often guided by determination to aid a cause.

Having the fortune of sustaining a strong yet trusting relationship depends on the ability to guide with honor, dignity, and deep respect, in regards to all personnel. This embodies the characteristics of a great leader. A great leader does not always make the right choice. They are not always following the right paths, but they certainly do not give up without a fight. To be the right leader in a given situation, one must understand the importance of dedicating time and effort into making themselves and others achieve their fullest potential. Leadership roles come with high standards and expectations, and it is essential that a leader understands what is expected of them at all times and is prepared to fulfill their responsibilities. As the current flight commander of Basha High's JROTC Echo Flight, I am

privileged to uphold a position of unity, conformity, and compatibility and exemplify a modest demeanor towards our corps fellow cadets. We learn there is a time to be rigid, and time to be cordial. I lead in hopes that perhaps one day, those cadets will grow into strong and virtuous young individuals that will have gained meaningful experiences from what our leaders taught them. Speaking from personal experience, I strive to give my cadets the resources that they need to improve on their behaviors, actions and communications every day so they can take those tools, and use them to their full potential.

Character is how you choose to express yourself in the limelight of your fellow cadets, and also how you want your cadets to view the way you are. How I encounter another individual includes being aware of the importance of first impressions, and showing a respectful demeanor to whomever I meet. Not only is character a reflection of oneself or on others, but it is considered an asset in any form of relationship. Personal character displays worth to others, yet most importantly, to oneself. Building a strong character does not only define the positive outlooks and perspectives, it also defines the negative misfortunes. In this case, what I have learned from within my flight is that showing how you present yourself in front of them also reflects how they will use that to their advantage.

Service is having the decency to work diligently, efficiently, and most importantly, to communicate effectively. Our corps completes annual community service projects such as Barktoberfest, Police Competition,

Living Tree Fundraising, Iron Man, and many more. We also do some minor services like campus cleanups, supervising school dances or events, providing care at an animal shelter, etc. Good communication amongst a team while doing any type of service can effectively build a strong bond between whomever you work with. Our corps trains to serve with kindness and diligence so that we can work efficiently together and accomplish our goals at the end of the project. There are times where communication is not effective, and the work becomes inefficient. This is why we follow certain guidelines to prevent inefficient work from happening. I may give out orders for specific tasks, but if there are too many for my control, I acquire any volunteers that would like to help me. I delegate these tasks so cadets could get a taste of what it feels like to be in control, and also get a good estimate of how they would perform as leaders themselves.

As these qualities can aid a person in accomplishing a variety of virtuous deeds and goals, all three are equally important to understand and embody. To me, these important qualities are essential to live up to any success. Leadership is being able to take action when others cannot while guiding them to live up to a higher standard. It is a person being able to see beyond the coastline of uncertainty, and being ready for anything to come their way. Character is when you show pas-

sion and dedication to what you hold yourself to, and I intentionally set myself to a high standard that will forever be unreachable. I do this because if I reach a certain level, then I have to seek out another level of achievement and another one after that. This is what I impress upon Echo Flight's cadets: to create their own unreachable standards so they will always aim higher and work for more. Lastly, service is putting in effort to make a difference and appreciating the outcome of hard work. Helping others provides one with appreciation and gratitude and brings light to one's day. All in all, leadership, character, and service have provided me many successes and personal rewards throughout my time in the JROTC classroom, and inside and outside the classroom, I strive to embody these qualities every single day.

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