

First Place

My Life's Advice

by
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If I could offer the world a piece of advice it would be you are your attitude. Your attitude not only affects you but it affects the world around you. You should try to stay positive.

I am currently a fourteen year old visually impaired student. My eye condition is caused by a defective gene in the retina and optic nerve which causes me to not see as well as some people, but I can still see a little. I have to learn how to do things a little different than most other people and it is sometimes challenging. For example I have learned to read in Braille and walk with a white cane. I am now quite good at both. It just so happens that because of not being able to see made me want to succeed even more than I probably would have without my disability. Also, I have developed my own way of looking at life. It can be challenging being the only one in my grade with a visual impairment. I couldn't have accomplished all that I have in school and out of school without my positive attitude.

From my experience I have found that there are two main ways you can live your life, both deal with your attitude. The first way is the one I try to avoid. It is to swim in the sea which is your own self pity and cut your life line out of the water. In this way you let everything that is bad in your life crush you into a hole you eventually will not be able to get out of. In a sense it controls your every action. You constantly are feeling sorry for yourself and how nothing goes your way. You don't enjoy your life as you might. It also affects everyone around you because you are unpleasant and not easy to talk to.

The second way is to raise yourself above your feelings of self pity. This is not easy because life has its ups and down. Your life is like a wave with many crests and troughs. You go up and down. The challenge is to ride the way onward and not crash back into despair that will plague you. I have had many bad experiences and sometimes I wish that the world would just let me go, and I wonder why I was put on this world if I have to go through this. I try to answer myself that my life isn't that bad. I have a loving family and my determination to succeed. I was always taught that no matter how bad you think your life is there is always someone who is worse off. So I pull myself back out of my sorrow and go on. In a sense you just have to let things go and move on with your life.

For example, if I can't play a sport others are playing I sometimes get frustrated and angry because I feel stupid or left out because I can't do what everyone else is doing. Most of the time I suppress my feelings and say to myself I will either find a different way for me to do this or this activity is not for me. There is no sense beating my head against a brick wall I would only hurt myself. Like I've said before not everything goes right, there are things that I just can not let blow by me. The thing that bothers me most is people making fun of me. It just makes me mad when someone says, how many fingers are they holding up or other insulting actions or words. I have also had people wave their hands in my face and ask me if I can see their hands. I remember one time this one kid was really irritating me. He was waving his hand in my face and kept asking me how many fingers he was holding up. I completely went nuts, I got right up in his face and started asking how he would feel if he were in my position. As I have grown up and matured I have learned to let go most of the negative things that people say to me. I have come up with some smart comments to their negative words such as "You don't know how many fingers you're holding up? So you need to ask someone else. Gee you must really need some help." I only have one time to live this life of mine so I should make the best of it. So should everyone else. As a group we should try to have a good attitude and the world would be a better place. Also we should be friendly to everyone.

Life is a battle being constantly fought sometimes a struggle sometimes there is a lull. This helps us realize the good things in our lives. If we just had good times we wouldn't know they were good. So it should be fought with a smile on our faces. So think positive or at least try because its good for you, the people around you, and everyone in general.