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Prepared to Succeed at Life

The teenage years are a launching pad to your future. All the decisions you make now will affect you in some way or another later on and a lot of them stay with you all throughout your adult years. The friends you make, the courses you choose to take, the activities you get involved in, and how you choose to spend your time all greatly affect who you are going to be as an adult. If you slack off in school now, you are going to wish you had a better study ethic when you are preparing for finals week in college. If you choose the wrong friends during your teen years, you may regret that decision later when you are reminded of things you did with those friends that you wish had never happened. This is why I believe character building now while I am still a teenager is very important, specifically in the areas of work ethic, school effort, and choosing friends.

Work ethic is something that seems to have been lost in a lot of my generation of young people. It seems we've turned to technology to entertain us rather than going out and getting work done. Honestly I fall under that trap a lot, often times checking my phone during times I should be working on school. It's hard to stay focused on a certain project and work hard on it when I don't feel like physically or emotionally doing anything. But it's also rewarding at the same time to come out on the other end and see the work you put into something that you worked hard on. Even though work isn't fun, it can be rewarding in so many different ways.

The effort towards our school work that we put in also has huge effects on our lives. You get what you put into a project. If you always put half an effort into your homework, you're not going to do very well. If you put a lot of time and effort into something though, you will redeem the rewards from that effort. One of my favorite quotes is "reach for the moon and even if you miss, you'll land among the stars". Although this quote is somewhat inaccurate (the stars are farther away than the moon), it also demonstrates a good point; if you do your best on something and don't get a super high grade on it, you will still end up with a much better grade than if you hadn't even tried. Even if high school classes don't seem to matter now, they are really going to matter when you go to college and need to use your study techniques that you learned in high school.

The friends we pick are going to stick with us the rest of our lives. I don't mean that every friend we have will always be close, but the memories of those people will always be in your mind. If you spend time with those who aren't a great influence on you, they will have an effect on who you are. If you're around those who have a positive influence on your life, you are more likely to start acting and thinking positively. These can both significantly alter your thinking and because of that, you need to be careful who you let alter your thinking.

I've just went over what I believe are the three main characteristics to living a successful and character-building life. It's important to have a good work ethic because it becomes what you are known for and is rewarding. Working hard on school is essential, especially with plans to go to college, because you never know when you'll need the information you were supposed to learn. Finally, the friends you choose are going to affect you forever, even after you're not friends so your friends need to be made carefully. All of these character traits cause you to become a well-rounded and enjoyable person to be around; even though it might not be easy to hone in and develop those characteristics, I can guarantee you it will make a lot of difference in the long run.