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EN40SC

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Ms. Smith

This I Believe

Have you ever wondered what a day would be like in someone else's life? How your daily struggles compare to theirs? How similar, or different, your lives are? Try putting yourself in someone's pearly white Nikes and maybe you'll find out they aren't so clean as you thought. I believe one of the most valued lessons in life is learning to place yourself in other's shoes. ✓

What seems like a decade ago, in grade eight, I had an amazing friendship with a cute boy named Johnny. He was a new kid at school, and we became friends rapidly after I broke his lock off his locker door when it wouldn't open. ✓

Over the next few months we grew closer, spending nearly every day hanging out together. Whether it was teenage hormones, or cheesy love songs, somewhere along the line I developed a crush that I'd later find out would cost me my relationship with Johnny. ✓

I hoped that our friendship would escalate into more, but he had his eyes on another girl in our class, Kaitlyn. I was frustrated and hurt that he didn't feel the same way I did, and I was determined to prove that he chose the wrong girl. ✓

Later that night I told him how I felt about him and Kaitlyn dating. The conversation was blown out of proportion, and he became furious. He felt betrayed that I wanted to be more than friends and told me to give him some time to process what I told him. ✓

For the next few days he never texted me back, and completely ignored me at school. It was like I was invisible. He wouldn't look at me, let alone speak to me, and I quickly deteriorated. I wondered how long it would take him to process that night, but deep down I already knew his decision; one of my best friends didn't want me in his life anymore. ✓

Seeing him so happy like losing me, a close friend, was nothing to him made me feel so alone. I tried not to cry, and failed. I just prayed for my friend back. For the first time I wished someone would put themselves in my rip off Converse flats and try to think of how I felt. If he could only think of how his actions affected me, maybe we would have stayed friends, and I could have saved him from the troubles high school brings. After I lost my friend I vowed to always try and think of how I effected others with my words and actions before I acted. ✓

Another key moment that strengthened my belief is the aftermath of a fight my dad and I had. It was a long and gloomy night at my house, and I had been watching Netflix all night without a care in the world. ✓

My dad started yelling at me to come talk to him and I already knew that my night would be ruined. He shouted at me for never doing anything to help around the house or to cook meals; but the talk quickly escalated into a screaming match. I cried out back at him telling him how he never saw how much work I put into cleaning the house and how nothing I did ever seemed to be enough for him. He fell silent, and had this pained look on his face. He told me how he loved me, and that I was good enough, then he hugged me and didn't let go. ✓

In the 20 awkward minutes of him still hugging me, I had time to think. I put myself in his grubby, old, cement covered boots and it changed my perspective. A single father with a crappy paying job, living in a big house with a dog who's a lot of work to take care of, and me; a teenage girl who is moody, distant, and yes, sometimes lazy.

His life has never been easy and I wasn't helping. I thought what if I was him? Could I do it better? Probably not. I had put myself in my father's shoes and knew I had to change and help out more around the house.

He let me go and said goodnight before he went off to bed, and in that moment, I became a better person.

Sometimes you have to learn lessons the hard way, whether that's losing someone or something you love, or hurting those around you. I realized that it's very important to keep living your life, but also continuously think of how your actions and words effect others.

I like to believe I've become a better person from putting myself in other's smelly shoes, but it's also easier said than done. Humans are a selfish species, and it's only natural instinct to think of yourself and your needs first before you think of others needs.

With training I hope to be able to always think of others before I act to avoid conflict, rather than try to fix my mistakes after they've happened. For the long future ahead, I hope to share my belief and make it known to more people how important it is to put yourself in the shoes of others.

To conclude, I believe in the importance of placing yourself in another person's life and seeing things through their eyes. Thinking about others first is a simple act of kindness that could make someone's day better. I've made my fair share of mistakes in my brief life, and I only hope to help others make less mistakes that they might regret later.

Learning to think of how you effect others can strengthen relationships and friendships, and even create new ones! Simply being kind can change someone's day and better yet their life.

So, whether it's bright red high heels, sandy flip flops, or those old shoes in your closet with the soles ripped out, you should always put yourself in the shoes of others, and think before you act.

Sample: Reflecting on Your Writing Task



Day 3 or 4

Reflecting on Your Writing Task

Using specific reference(s) to your writing variables and/or your draft, explain one or more of the following prompts:

5 marks

107

- Ⓐ The information I included in my text is effective for my purpose because ...
 - The advantages of my choice of form are ...
 - My style of writing is effective in capturing and maintaining my audience's attention by ...
- Ⓑ The context in which my audience will experience the text is important because ...
- Ⓒ The central idea of my text is important for my chosen audience because ...

The information in my essay is effective for showing people in their world all the things they get because I state the details explained of how we as a world should think of our selves, just as we should think of their's and we can adjust what we do to avoid problems. Publishing my essay on social media would be special because teenagers are constantly on social media platforms and could come across my article just as easily as they come across others. Not only can it go viral but it can also be interpreted in new ways and get more people talking about it. Talking about putting your self in someone else's shoes is important to explain to teenagers because more often than not, teenagers are rude, judgemental, and ungrateful to their friends, family, and elders. Hopefully my essay could shine light on the topic and get teens thinking about how they could improve their lives by thinking about others before they act.