

Ottawa Essay: "Character Counts"

By

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Becoming a better person starts with having a strong inner core! Three of the most important traits that strengthen your core are respect, responsibility, and caring. Together and alone, these help to build a strong community of strong people!

First of all, respect is vital because it provides an equal footing between people and helps us to live in harmony. It encourages others by allowing them to work, talk, or think without intrusion. Also, it follows the Golden Rule – "Treat Others as You Would Like to be Treated". In addition, respect creates a pleasant atmosphere for all!

Second, responsibility develops one's fortitude in many ways. When you say you will do something, you make a promise to everyone around you — a promise that must be upheld. Doing what you say you will, whether it's easy or challenging, is what develops your fortitude, your inner strength. By being responsible, you guard against possible negative consequences. You also become a role model to those who are not as responsible.

Third, caring for others makes you feel content both inside and out. Although it takes time, energy, and patience, it is worth the effort when you are rewarded with the smiles of others! Caring is a very positive action that enhances your personal compassion and helps others to enjoy your company more.

All in all, these traits enhance your life and the lives of those around you! If you are willing to cultivate respect, responsibility, and caring, then you will live a harmonious life enriched by your inner fortitude and a feeling of contentment!