

Chelsea Davis, 4th Grade

Imagine Bella Academy of Excellence

Essay Contest:

The quote that I chose was "discipline yourself so that others will not have to" by John Wooden. I chose this quote because I think that it's true that you should discipline yourself. I used to think that people have to discipline you, but now I know that you are supposed to discipline yourself because this is the first step in reaching maturity. Maturity is the point in your life when you know what is right from wrong, and you choose the path that benefits not only yourself but other people. Discipline is very important to me, and self-discipline is one of the most important qualities of integrity.

People should use this quote at school because discipline is one of the most important qualities of being a good student. Discipline means that you follow the school rules and encourage other students to do so. One time, a boy in my class was talking back to the teacher who was trying to teach the entire class. My teacher tried to discipline him, but he continued to be disrespectful. No one in the class said anything, but I knew that his behavior was not appropriate and that if I behaved that way my parents would be very disappointed in me. Even though my teacher was trying to discipline him, I thought to myself that he should have some self-discipline that comes from respecting yourself and the school rules.

There was another time when a girl in my class was being disrespectful to the other students. She called me and other students' names and that hurt our feelings. We did not tell the teacher because we did not want her to continue to hurt our feelings. My Mom always tells me that school is for learning and that some students will say mean things because they feel bad about themselves. This was true for the girl that was being disrespectful. She did not have many friends and I think that she was being disrespectful to us to get attention. I started to talk to her about school homework and other things that she enjoyed, and we became friends. She

stopped being disrespectful to me and other students and learned to use self-discipline in order to stop making other kids feel bad.

This quote applies to me because sometimes I need to show more self-discipline in my temper and how I complete my homework. Sometimes, I become angry with teachers for giving me so much homework, but then I realize that the homework is to make me smarter and able to do well in fifth grade. Sometimes, I also become angry with other students for their behavior, but my Mom tells me that I can only be responsible for my own behavior.

I believe that this quote also applies to our school because Ms. Woody, our Principal, always says that integrity is important, and discipline is an important part of integrity. Discipline also is an important part of justice because someone who has no self-discipline and gets into trouble often will have more severe consequences than someone who has self-discipline but gets into trouble only one time. The person who gets into trouble only once will more than likely not have severe consequences.

To me, self-discipline means growing up and being able to make good decisions to benefit me, my family, my school, and my community.