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Open Mind, Open World

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Brad Janicki
This I Believe Essay

Open Mind, Open World

Throughout my life I have stressed one certain belief that I strongly hold dear to myself. I believe that being open-minded is one of the most important things one can do in their life, yet it is very difficult to let your mind be open to anything and everything. Modern culture, ignorance, and opinions often prevent anyone from being open-minded in today's society. I believe that being tolerant of different religions, cultures, and such is key in understanding the world. Sadly, people's ignorance today is what is holding us back from being open-minded towards these things. The influence of the internet, TV, and other people is the main cause of this. Usually most people just go along with what people are saying or doing. People rarely think for themselves anymore.

My parents have greatly enforced the idea of being open-minded during my early childhood. They always taught me to accept other people's ideas and way of life without criticizing them. I found that by being open-minded most of my life I can get along easier with other people and am more open towards their ideas. I have tried to follow this as best as I can but it is difficult to do as most people lead straight to a conclusion based on the main ideas and beliefs of others, not their own. One small instance in my life was when I got my first job. Working as a dishwasher in a new environment with people who led a different lifestyle than me made me wary at first. But by going in with an open mind, I came to be content with my job, learned much from my coworkers and got a new view on the way certain people live their lives.

I believe that people need to start thinking by themselves and for themselves. One must be willing to accept almost everything that they see is different, except anything that is clearly outrageous and offensive. After becoming open-minded, one will be able to start seeing the good in almost everything one will come across in life. Having a closed mind and following the beliefs of mainstream culture will close any doors in the way of being able to learn more about the world. I believe that in order for the

entire world to get along, countries must be unbiased and tolerant of each other. Today, countries have a hard time understanding other country's motives, but if they understood their culture, religion, and basic beliefs that just maybe, maybe, they might get along better in some way.

These things I believe very strongly. And I hope that one day all of humanity will be able to get along and understand each other through being open-minded. I believe it is time for people to step up out of their comfort zones and learn more about various world cultures in hope that one day we will all be able to appreciate one another.