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American Citizenship Essay

America. The land of the free and the land of the brave. This is a cliché that has been ingrained into each American since the moment of our founding. However, should there be other aspects that Americans' are known for? What makes America such a desirable place for so many? *Most communities focus on the benefits of equality and freedom of speech. These qualities are intriguing to many, especially those coming from places where those things are not given for free. But the elements that make up our constitution and independence are not all that a society can function upon. Character — a willingness to give up your time for the betterment of others. Integrity — doing the right thing when no one is there to pay you respect for your good deeds. Assisting the next generation by allowing them access to the events and mistakes of the past so they can make a better future for us all. Each community is made up of different ethnicities, backgrounds, and cultures. Our differences are what make us more connected and each individual in a society can bring a different temperament, idea, or skill to the table that can increase the spirits of the town or city. For that reason there is no right way to create the perfect community and what each individual brings forth is important for making a society that reflects who the people are and what they want to embody.*

For me, a high school senior, life is about school, swimming, and work. A constant stresser is the fact that in just a few short months life will change for me, and it is possible that I will end up in an entirely different community filled with people who do not know or understand me. *When you realize that your life might be changing drastically, reflecting upon your life so far and remembering the community you might soon be leaving is forefront in your mind. As I look back the things that I recall with the fondest of memories are the times that I have helped others. From organizing blood drives and food banks with the National Honor Society, to teaching young children critical water skills, offering my time to assist in the betterment of the community never fails to show me how much good a person can supply if only they are willing. In my novice opinion, the best parts of a community are the people that strive to lend a helping hand to anyone in need. It might be stopping to let a senior citizen cross the street, or picking a job that, while it might not pay much in a monetary aspect, brings joy and a safer life to others and therefore yourself. On the other hand, a kind thing such as giving blood or signing up to be an organ donor, could be momentous in the betterment of society. On the flip side, to better the environment of a community, working to save and protect the things that matter to you such as planting more trees could be someone's contribution to their hometown. There are thousands of possibilities when it comes to what a good citizen can do to make their home, their world, a better place. To be an outstanding citizen in my community, my dream is to help in all the ways that I have the ability and the knowledge to do.*

Every project starts with dedication and drive, in this case from the entire community. So to begin doing my small part I will organize more community service and community wide events for the National Honor Society, to ensure more community based outreach and involvement. It is my belief that people who have the opportunity to do honest and kind things *for their society will do so they only have to have the chance. Creating more volunteer and*

donation based activities will give people this chance. In addition, I will work outside the normal duties of a citizen and I will strive to help those around me. Whether it is opening the door for *someone*; *helping a fellow student with homework*; *listening to the advice of others and looking at things from an alternate perspective*, I can be a positive influence in my community. Just by performing everyday acts of kindness and selflessness anyone can improve an individual's life and motivate them to do positive deeds in the community as a result. Furthermore, I can use my unique knowledge in swimming to help the youth in my community learn how to be safe in the water and perhaps find a sport that they can enjoy their entire life. The youth of today are often occupied with video games, televisions, and other similar technological devices. Learning how to enjoy a sport, especially one that a person can do no matter their fitness level, age, or income is monumental. It can create a community that has more physical activity and can connect over a common interest. A town or city that can bridge the gap between age, race, and income is a *community that is happier and better overall*. *Swimming, doing good-natured deeds, and making more volunteer opportunities available to everyone* can help make this possible.

For a community to improve it needs a desire and passion to upgrade society. There needs to be a dedicated group of individuals that are willing to work together to make the community more equal, connected, and kind. Our community in Carson City and the surrounding area can be *a home and place for everyone, but it will take effort from us all. It will take everyone doing the little things that some believe are beneath them, be it picking up trash or following the rules*. Additionally, everyone will need to take part in doing substantial things such as donating their life saving fluids — blood and plasma, or organizing a food drive for our less fortunate neighbors. Our home situated between the Sierra Nevada Mountains is a place of diversity. *Changing a community demands effort from everyone no matter their culture, race, and religion*. It requires people to come together and make a community that helps mankind — because all of us are Nevadans and we deserve to live in a community that is kind, selfless, and dedicated to improving the future.