

Title: How Community Shapes You (A Narrative Essay)

Audience: Teenagers/Young Adults

Intro

- The crucial role of community on one's life
- Central Theme: how the support of a positive community can help shape and guide young people
- Mention each piece that will be discussed

Story 1: The Power of Role Models

- Story of a youth who was headed towards negative behavior but was positively influenced by someone they looked up to.
- Having someone to look up to within the community changed this person's perspective on life and behavior.
- How role models help to guide him on a better path.

Story 2: Peer Pressure vs. Positive Peers

- Focus on someone struggling with isolation or peer pressure, on the brink of making destructive choices
- Show how they are brought into a positive peer group
- Emphasize the group's role in building trust, encouraging positive behavior, and holding each other accountable.
- Illustrate how they gain confidence, avoid risky behavior, and become a role model for others.
- The power of friendships and collective growth

Story 3: The Power of a Supportive Group

- Story about a person facing a personal crisis
- Show how the community rallies around this person, offering resources, emotional support, and a sense of belonging.
- Include moments that reflect the generosity and care of others
- Highlight how this individual, through the help of their community, is able to rebuild their life and later give back
- This demonstrates the interdependence within communities.

Story 4: The Power of Purpose

- A story about a person who found purpose and belonging within a community

- Explain how they were before the community, why did they not have purpose? Etc
- Explain how they found the community
- Explain how that community instilled purpose in that person, what was different?

Conclusion

Restate the Central Theme:

- Reaffirm the importance of a positive community in shaping the lives of young people.
- Briefly mention how the stories of role models, peer groups, supportive communities, and finding purpose illustrate this.

The main lessons from each story:

- How role models provide guidance and direction.
- How positive peer groups create trust, accountability, and personal growth.
- How a supportive community offers a lifeline during crises.
- How finding purpose within a community can transform one's life.

Reflect on the collective power of communities in building resilience and encouraging positive choices in teenagers and young adults.

Mention the interdependence within communities and how helping others leads to mutual growth and development.

Call to Action:

Encourage young people to seek out positive communities and invest in their relationships.

Reinforce the idea that being part of a community doesn't just shape individuals but builds stronger, healthier societies for everyone.