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Good character consists of several different traits. One trait that shows someone's character is honesty. Honesty, to me, is always being truthful in what you do. There are honest people and there are people who are not. I would like to think that I am an honest person. Honestly, the only reason I am writing this paper is for the English class extra credit. Is that honest enough? Honestly, I think most of the kids that write these essays do it because they have to. Either they feel like they need to, or they are forced. At least I am willing to admit it, and not give some canned-answer-essay about good characteristics. There is no way to tell if the kids writing these believe, or live by, what they are describing. What I am saying is: if people were honest in what they did everyday, good character would result.

A place that honesty can have a big impact is school. One could show honesty at school in several ways. Kids could stop lying about things they could get in trouble for. Why not try just fess up when you mess up? My predictions of what would happen if such a thing occurred is as follows: the administrator will be so astounded that you were honest they will give you a break. They will admire your honesty, and wish every kid would take responsibility for their actions as you have done. You may even be labeled as an honest kid.

School is not the only place that honesty can have a positive effect. In addition to many other places, the home is an important place to be honest. Stop lying to your parents. If you are honest with them, you will develop a better relationship with them. Who knows, maybe they will even give you more freedom. Think about it, if they know their child is an honest kid, they will be less likely to worry about being lied to. They would not have to worry about where their son or daughter was going or what they were doing.

So, if you are honest from the start, you will have the freedom to go and do things that will make you wish you were not an honest person. (haha I make joke)

A parent or teacher could show you this trait in their actions. They could, and should, do their best to be a good role model. If a student is lucky enough to find an honest adult to look up to, their character traits will improve. If a young man or woman witnesses a parent or teacher engaging in dishonest behavior, they will see no reason why they cannot get by with the same behavior. Thus, it is crucial that the older generation sets a good example for the younger.

I hope I have made my stance clear. Honesty is an important part of life in general. If people were just honest from the start, things would be better for everyone. I believe and try to live by what I have said in this essay. I would also like to make it clear that it was not my intention to make a mockery of this essay contest. I just believe that kids should not be made to write about things they do not truly feel strongly about. If someone really wants to tell why a character trait is so vital, then by all means do so. But let it be done in such a way that they are able to speak freely, without fear of what may happen. If this contest was conducted that way, instead of having the ideas outlined for you, the kids' writing would be more heartfelt, meaningful, and most of all, honest. I understand that younger grades may require outlining to some degree. If so, make the guidelines for older students less fine-lined. Then, we truly would be "growing good character."