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2018 STUDENT ESSAY WINNER

The Sioux County Sheriff's Office held its third annual essay contest for area 6th grade students.

The topic of this year's essay was "Leadership."

Students were asked to describe what leadership meant to them and who they see as a leader in their schools or communities.

In March, the submitted essays were reviewed by Sheriff Dan Altena, SRO Deputy Waylon Pollema and Mrs. Julie Visscher's Honors English Class of the Boyden-Hull JR/SR High School in Hull, IA.

Haley Wielenga, a student at Hull Christian School, was selected as the winner of this year's essay contest. Haley is the daughter of Evan and Shondra Wielenga of Hull.

Haley and her parents were honored by having her essay posted on the Sheriff's Office website and Facebook page. They received a tour of the Sheriff's Office and had the opportunity to do a ride-along with School Resource Officer (SRO) Deputy Waylon Pollema in his patrol vehicle.

Pollema said, "This has become a project we look forward to each year; there are so many well-written essays and it's fun to see the student's views on these topics"

Congratulations, Haley!



(Pollema Wielenga Altena)

Read Haley's essay on the next page

Leadership

"Do what is right, not what is easy" -Unknown. This quote is very short, but it means a lot. In doing the right thing you are showing that you know right from wrong. Although sometimes it is not always easy to do the right thing, later you might look back and think to yourself, "I'm glad I stuck up for that kid" or "I was really helpful in that situation." No one wants to look back and think, "why didn't I help that kid when he was bullied?" When you do the right thing, it is a sign of leadership. Leadership has many different requirements and characteristics, but it really involves empathy, commitment, and humility.

Empathy, it is one of the main points of leadership. When you show empathy you show a lot of things like, sympathy, kindness, and appreciation. In my life a good leader is my teacher, Mrs. Waterman. I think she displays empathy very well. She always listens to our problems and concerns. Whenever she can't think of a solution to one of our problems, or questions, she goes and asks another teacher. In a way, she never gives up on us. She also has perseverance, which is a great quality in leadership. She keeps going, even with all our bad behavior and talking, she never lets us down.

Commitment is also very important in leadership. Mrs. Waterman demonstrates commitment. The definition of commitment is the state or quality of being dedicated to a cause, or in other words being committed to your job and giving every student a good education. This definition describes her very well. If you really think about it, leadership can be hard, even hard to understand in general. Some people are born leaders, they just stand out. But other people are a bit different, they need to develop this skill. If you would like to develop the skill of commitment, you will need to work for it. Often teachers are born with the skill of leadership, and this can be one of the reasons they chose that profession.

Finally, the last important quality of leadership is humility. My teacher is also very good at displaying this skill. She never tries to be showy or she never thinks highly of herself. She is always putting everyone's needs before hers. In a way this is also showing leadership. When you are a leader you need to always think of others and not yourself. Often when people come to a high position, they start thinking only about themselves and how they're so great and what they can do for themselves. This is called self-centered or self-absorbed. This is where humility comes in.

These three examples of leadership are very important in being or becoming a leader. It takes empathy, commitment, and humility. Continue to work hard and use perseverance to accomplish your goals as a leader.