

PSL Student

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Mrs. Trent

Justice Oriented

Are You Stuck up or a Good Citizen?

People think to themselves how could they get more involved in their community, what does it actually mean to be a justice oriented citizen. In today's time a lot of people only come to think of themselves and their friends, not people in need. But, there also our select groups in communities who want to make a difference and there's different levels of civic engagement like personally responsible, particular citizen and justice oriented. The most helpful engagement would be justice oriented, meaning a person who truly believes in making a change and explores the problems and finds way to fix them not to just " help " them. Throughout my essay, I will talk about how examples in *Tuesdays with Morrie*, and In the service of life show how to be a good citizen.

In the book *Tuesdays with Morrie*, Mitch Albom shows what it means to be a good citizen by being their for his professor Morrie. As Morrie was diagnosed with cancer in his leg, Mitch began to come closer and stay around to help Morrie by helping him go to the bathroom, bringing him food (helping him eat) and most importantly building that trust and love through many conversations. Mitch and Morrie built a stronger relationship as it continued throughout Morries death. In reality, Mitch only wrote this book to pay for Morries medical bills because he knew they were in debt from paying all the previous bills from the sickness. Not knowing, this

book became a best seller in many different languages, Mitch wrote a message that inspired people to be there for someone and to show it was truly important to create bonds with people. Throughout many conversations Morrie always talked about life, he wanted to teach Mitch to live life to the fullest and how to get meaning into your life. Morrie states, “ Devote yourself to love others, devote yourself to the community around you, and devote yourself to creating something that gives you purpose and meaning.” He is telling Mitch to put time into others, build relationship with people because what you do for people others will do for you.

In one of the services I served at was Clothe-A-Child, one of the best experiences I have had. Being given a new child every week I had to learn how to make them feel comfortable and to be able to trust me. Once we started, I would ask a routine of questions to get the kids to open up to me. When I was serving I would make sure that the kids never felt singled out, we would shop through the whole store and if they wanted to go up the escalator then so be it. Most of these kids don't get to go shopping so when they went with me I tried to make it bigger than just “ shopping “. With the girls we would do fashion shows and model in the mirror not just try on the clothes and leave, I wanted to make sure the kids had a fun experience because most kids looked up to that day when it was their turn to come to the mall.

In the article, “ In the Service of Life” Rachel Remen explains that there is a difference between helping and serving. In her eyes, helping is a way of inequality and making yourself feel better and making them feel less. Serving is both people are gaining a bond, but neither is feeling equaled out. Before reading this, I thought serving and helping were two of the same terms but in reality serving is more heartfelt to the person you are working with because a connection is being made and stronger relationships are being developed.

In another service I help is with the Kindergarteners in Mrs. Dolatowski's class. When I go down there I love it, I love building bonds with each one of them. Being down there working with little kids you have to be patient, nice but also not too nice where they think they're in charge. You have to build a relationship with each kid in there so others do not feel left out. I love hearing stories that they tell me and all the hugs they give. It's sad when I see kids singling a kid out not letting them play the game they're playing. I always either tell the kids that he's playing with you whether you like it or not. Sometimes if I see a kid sitting by themselves during play time I ask them if they want to play with me or for me to read a book for them and then their mood flips around. It's important to me to make sure each kid feels special in their own way and to build relationships with them. Some I became closer with over the years and watched them grow up and they still remember who I am which means something to me.

Some people wonder what it takes to be a good citizen, how could they get more involved in their community, what does it actually mean to be a justice oriented citizen. In today's time people are stuck up and only care about themselves and not people who need help in their community. Also, there's a group in communities who are all about serving others and they put others before themselves. What you put into a relationship is what you're going to get out of it. Justice oriented is a person who truly believes in making a change but doesn't just help but tries to fix the issue. By understanding, *Tuesdays with Morrie*, in the service of life and my own personal experiences it is very important to invest time into others, build trust, show love, make each other happy and be there for one another.