



Write to Educate

Scholarship Contest Winner

Kaycee Ogle, Owosso High School

Essay Topic: A bright idea that would be a positive change at your high school and in your community

“What could you do at your high school to improve it before you graduate?” This is something I think many upperclassmen get asked as they approach the end of their high school careers. It wasn’t until this year, my senior year that I realized it takes just one leap of faith to make something big happen.

I am an active member in my yearbook class, and one day I was browsing through our senior picture entries because the deadline was up. I realized many of my classmates had not submitted their pictures. At this time we were to notify them that they needed to turn them in or their photo would not be in the yearbook. When notifying my classmates about this many of them confided in me, and told me they just couldn’t afford to have their pictures taken. This completely broke my heart. I instantaneously felt a need to do something about this. This time of our lives is so important for we are closing one chapter of our life and embarking on a new one. I knew that every individual deserved to document this part of their life. So that night I brainstormed, and came up with an idea. I wanted to host a free photoshoot with a professional photographer, but that’s not just it. I wanted these kids to have a chance to feel good, and look good so I wanted hairstylists, makeup artists, and barbers so be a part of the process. I knew this would be extremely difficult, but I was determined to make this happen. I went to my school and got the approval from them, and after that the planning began. I was able to get a phenomenal photographer Dana Gruszynski who was more than willing to help. I made social media posts, phone calls, and sought after people in the community who could help us make this a success. Next thing I knew our story was in the paper, and on channel 5 News helping us get donations for product, and for people who were willing to donate their time in effort to help my classmates get ready. My heart was beyond melted because our whole community came together. We had so many volunteers for everything you can think of. There were stylists, Makeup artists, Beauticians, and Barbers who jumped at the chance to help. A bakery heard about our event and catered the whole thing for us so that way everyone could enjoy snacks while getting ready for their big day. A local DJ gave his time and provided us with wonderful music the whole afternoon.

That day I helped with hair and makeup. I had a classmate I helped doll up say to me “Kaycee, I have never felt beautiful until this moment”. Many of them even cried tears of joy when they saw how their pictures turned out. Those reactions made all of my hard work beyond worth it. They deserved this moment and I felt so honored to be a part of helping them achieve it. I am still in such awe that my one small idea had blown up into something so beautiful. It has given me so much faith in humanity and showed me that there are so many great people in this world. I learned that you can achieve anything you put your mind to no matter how hard it may be. My school is now planning on making this a yearly event, in effort to help those who may come from a poverty stricken environment and help them have the same chance to celebrate and remember this important time in their life. I will be returning years to come to help with this event because it is so much more than just a photoshoot. This event not only helped my school, and classmates, but it helped the families in our community who wouldn’t have been able to do this on their own. So when asked “What can we do improve our school and community”? Well, I say the sky is the limit. With Faith, Love, and determination there is nothing we cannot do.

