



## **Foundations for Life National Scholarship Award Winner - 10th Grade**

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*"The day you quit school, you condemn yourself to a future of poverty."*  
— Jamie Escalante

### **We DO need education...**

Without the ability to learn we would live meaningless lives. The beauty of learning and growing from our mistakes is what life is all about. None of us should waste the wonderful minds that we all possess.

Without school our futures would just be bland canvases, and we would have to use broken crayons to try to get the job done. Education can provide a variety of choices to paint that canvas with. Life is a canvas, blank, when we first receive it. It is up to us to decide how to paint our futures and with an education comes opportunities.

The quote by Jamie Escalante is very truthful. The day you decide to quit school will be the day you plunge into the not too pleasant world of poverty. Knowledge is power, and without it we become weak, too weak to be able to maintain a good life. With an education the windows of opportunity may remain open for our entire lives. None of us dream of living poverty when we grow older. We have dreams, and with an education we become one step close to reaching them.

For those of us who want to become parents one day we all need to think about our futures, because they are not too far away. Without an education, you are not giving your children all that you can. With an education, you will be able to support your children. I know my mother is giving her all and then some to make sure I get an education, for she knows that without one I could be living with her when I am thirty. Many of us want to leave the nest as soon as we become legal. In order to do that we must get an education and know how to fly from the nest.

The idea of working a dead end job for the rest of my life is definitely not how I want to end up. I want to attain a fantastic job, one that will offer a wonderful chance to expand even more. I do not want to sit in a cubicle all day, every day, doing the same thing as the day before. This would make life seem colorless and dreary.

We see the outcome of people without an education everyday. People line up to receive welfare. Why not work for a living and see how hard work pays off in the end? When we sit back and expect things to be given to us we are wasting our lives. "This world owes you nothing," Maya Angelou once stated. The world does not owe us anything. It is a gift to even be here living in God's green earth. When opportunity your way you seize it, because opportunities will not always come your way.

Knowledge is our minds form of fuel. When we feed ourselves knowledge only good can come of it. Even negative experiences have something to teach us in life. Life only comes around once, there is only one shot to make this work. How we make it work is up to us. Create your masterpiece, be sure to make it unique.

Astonishingly, no matter how much we learn our minds never overload. There is always something new to learn. The knowledge we attain will spill over from our futures into the futures of the next generations to come. Learning never stops. This is good, because without it, we would be painting our canvases with only black and white.