

Essay Cover Sheet

Student Name: Alena Varbie

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Chosen Theme: No R Word

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Beauty in Difference

“Everyone is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.” These words by Albert Einstein serve as the perfect example as to why the “R” word should be eliminated. It automatically staples to an individual a derogatory label for being different, when in reality, every person on this earth is different and has to struggle with being accepted in society.

It’s no secret that no one is exactly alike on this planet. Two people might share the same attitude, similar interest, or might resemble each other physically, but one thing every person is exactly alike in: opportunity. Every person has the opportunity to succeed. Everyone has a choice to be truly happy in life and make the most of a bad situation. But no matter where someone goes in life, what he or she wears, what he or she does or doesn’t have, the opportunity also arises for someone to pass judgment.

Judging a person for what they like, what his or her interests are, or even worse, for a situation that is beyond human control, such as someone with a disability, is a reflection of their own terrible attitude, which is the real disability. People should embrace the fact that everyone is different; everyone is beautiful in their own way, and people who have disabilities have an opportunity for the world to see that beauty.

Beauty comes from within. A positive attitude and a winning smile in that face of defeat show a person’s truest, innermost beauty. But if someone poorly judges that person, some of that light will be dimmed. The “R” word has to stop being used because it gives those ignorant enough to use it the power to “judge the fish.” It dims the light of the most beautiful people, and no one should have the power to do that.