

No R Word Essay Contest
Cover Sheet

Student Name:

Caroline Boorman

Grade: 7th Age: 13

Teacher's Last Name: Ms. Erwin

School Name: College View Middle School

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Chosen Theme: _____

Parent's Name: Tracie Boorman

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Signature X Tracie Boorman

Retire the R- Word

By: Caroline Boarman

Discrimination. Unfairness. Disrespect. Judgmental... **Retard**. It hurts, "The only disability in life is a bad attitude." (Scott Hamilton, amputee). Why in the world would you say such a hateful word to a person no different than you, or just as a joke?! NO, it's not funny at all. Over years of using "the" word as a joke it's time to stop it, drop it, and dig for a new word.

How about you take a walk into someone else's shoes for once. Let's start with a family friend of mine; he was born quite early, therefore left him not fully developed. It's somewhat a struggle to understand his words, but he can completely understand yours. I have spent so much time with him I know what he says and what he's feeling. His feelings get hurt very easily and I couldn't hurt them, so out of respect I don't say the r-word. He is deeply fascinated with cars; he knows all kinds of them and the year some of them were made, it's outstanding. He is the sweetest little boy I know and his disability doesn't stop his life. He is truly something.

Imagine you were to come across a disabled person, don't stare at them in disgust, you wouldn't like that either. Instead start a conversation with them, or just try and compliment them. Every single person is unique in some way. In my past experiences I have learned that most disabled people are the hearts of the world and

the most understanding people you will ever be likely meet. Stick up for people and show that you care, STOP THE R-WORD!

Living with a disability is a challenge that can be overcome by champions. It's not easy to be in a wheel chair or to have someone help you, because some individuals want to be independent. If you know anyone with a disability and are still proving the world wrong, tell him or her that they are a very strong, outstanding person. I have no experiences with a disability, but I know you have to be tough to overcome one. Be the one to set a new trend out of just plain kindness to others.

Start down a new path, with a new word, and make people follow in your footsteps. Just remember that nobody can spell disability without ability. Every person on Earth is different in his or her own ways, but they are the same in the world full of the people that we are, with the same actions to every person: Respect. "We are all the same we all cry tears, we all bleed red." (Ronnie Dunn). Respect others to be respected back, so are YOU ready to retire the r-word?!