

Arthur Ashe Essay
By: Andrew Yip (8 yrs)

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I want to be like Mr. Arthur Ashe by working hard, and trying my best to the things I do like schoolwork and tennis. Always listen to my teachers and coaches by doing what they say and give it all I got!

Arthur Ashe said, "You are never really playing an opponent you are playing yourself, your own highest standards, and when you reach your limits that is real joy." What this means is that I am playing myself to see how good I could possibly be, and I need to challenge myself.

In tennis I will try not to get frustrated when I lose a point or game. It is okay to be scared but learn to be strong, brave, and play fair. Always keep my head up not put my head down. ALWAYS GIVE IT WHAT I GOT- one point at a time.

I also learn from Mr. Arthur Ashe to help other people that are hurt and poor. His main work was to see that poor children get education and to find a cure for the AIDS disease. I want to help the poor by giving them money and use my time to help others when they need help.

Even though Mr. Arthur Ashe was sick and had AIDS he still helped others. Even though he was tired and did not want to get up he still helped others.

One day I would like to be a Grand Slam Champion just like Mr. Arthur Ashe but also a champion to help others!

Arthur Ashe

Arthur Ashe was a hard worker, he wasn't a quitter, and he cared about other people. Like Arthur Ashe, I play tennis but that's not the most important thing in my life. I love books and read most of the time. Like Arthur, I think school is more important than sports. Don't get me wrong, playing tennis is fun and a big part of my summer. Winning a match feels good but I don't win every time.

I had to practice to get better and that's when I won more matches. I practice in a lot of other things like math, reading, spelling, Boy Scouts, and other activities. I make decisions and set goals for myself. I never give up, but I always keep going.

Helping others makes me feel good. Whether it is teaching a little boy how to make paper airplanes, landscaping at the school or passing out food to needy families, the feeling is the same. It is like winning the last game of a set!

I like tennis and I am lucky to live in an area where the Junior Tennis Association has a program available to anyone who wants to play. I may not have faced all the struggles that Arthur Ashe did but even when things are difficult I have to get through them. I hope to become a awesome person and tennis player just like Arthur Ashe.

By: Ethan Turner

“How do you exemplify the ideals of Arthur Ashe?”

You are breathing heavily, one hundred percent focused on the little ball in front of you. All your dreams in this one yellow, fuzzy ball. You throw it up high – a perfect toss – and smack it back down to your opponent. A beautiful serve. A couple more shots, dives, pumped fists, and you have done it. You captured the 1975 Wimbledon, defeating Jimmy Connors. The discrimination you faced is forgotten in a flash. The only thought that remains is that you, Arthur Ashe, have done it. The match was over, but the winning had just begun ...

Ashe demonstrated to the world that everybody especially all children, should only be given paths of opportunity absent of all discrimination. Every individual must reach for their potential and help others to do the same. Arthur Ashe’s actions speak to me. I am an unlikely tennis player, being five feet tall with difficult allergies and compromised vision, yet I push myself to achieve my maximum. More importantly, I am driven to help others achieve their success. I coach younger children and write a column on the USTA Pacific Northwest website detailing junior tournaments and praising local talent and effort.

At my middle school, I passionately pursue my academic talents by working two to three grade levels ahead in all subjects. Yet again, more importantly, I tutor my peers, helping them understand and find excitement in their studies. Like Ashe, but on a much smaller scale, I feverously pursue my own aspirations and at the same time, attempt to help others achieve their personal successes. Arthur Ashe reached for his dreams despite discrimination, and then fought to eliminate those obstacles for the next generation. I hope to do the same.

"How Do I Exemplify the Ideals of Arthur Ashe?"

By: Kedzie J. White, Jr.

It is my belief that we all are here for a reason and purpose. Though I was only a year old when Arthur Ashe died, I do know that his purpose was to encourage all people to achieve greatness. I too want to have a cause that would one day inspire others.

There is one thing however that I do understand about purpose. Hard work must always accompany a purpose. From what I have read and researched about Arthur Ashe, he was a man who believed in purposes that went far beyond the sport of tennis. He did change the game of tennis forever and make history as the first African American man to ever win a national tennis title, yet he also motivated scores of people to take a good look at the social injustices other people were faced with in our world.

Though I do not live in a segregated society as Arthur Ashe did, I am well aware of the pressures that my environment can place on a young person. I also understand that without a purpose in life, any dream that a person might have may not become a reality. The way I see it, Arthur Ashe had a goal even at a young age. I believe that he decided to not just settle for the ordinary but to strive for the extraordinary! Playing tennis on segregated courts probably made him a bit more aware of what was not fair and equal in his world. Perhaps he decided then and there that he would use tennis as a tool to wake up the world! Perhaps that was his purpose.

I am in the eleventh grade and I know the value of working hard. My parents have always tried to encourage me to do my best. There have been times when I have let them down, but I keep in mind the purpose of learning from past mistakes and trying again.

I believe that I exemplify the ideals of Arthur Ashe, because I know what it takes to be a winner in tennis and in life. It takes dedication, hard work, and a goal or purpose. In my opinion, Arthur Ashe was a dedicated athlete and humanitarian. Despite the odds, he did succeed and was a champion for the world.

I do not know what my life has for me in the future, but I know, like Arthur Ashe, I will make every effort to keep my purpose in sight and triumph!

Arthur Ashe Essay

By Tajh Jones

Why is Arthur Ashe a legend? Why wouldn't he be a legend? Arthur Ashe represent everything a man should represent and possesses, the qualities each entity should have such as integrity, respect, and the willingness to give back to his people. Arthur Ashe set many precedents for the African American race being the only African American to win the Men's single at Wimbledon. I think he really set the way other African American players such as the Venus and Serena Williams.

Arthur Ashe inspires me to give back to my community, to put forth my school work more then my athletics with his line" tennis is a tool and education is the means". This shows that Arthur Ashe was a hero because he thought more then the athletic ability of his self but towards the mental part also. He represents the most important part of playing sports which is "Sportsmanship". With his withdrawing of a match because his opponent displayed poor sportsmanship really stamps his legacy as a hero, putting forth the individual goal of winning. With other famous lines such as" for every hour spent on the playing field two should be spent with a book" Arthur Ashe really recognizes that education is the key to anything and that sports should be the secondary option to all, and for this Arthur Ashe truly is a hero. With His political contributions and athletics contributions Arthur Ashe used his used his athletic ability to capture his audience, and then used his intelligence to use that audience for greater achievements such as his protesting of apartheid.

Arthur Ashe defines a sports role model and has helped inspire me to be more then an athlete but a working member in society. When I die I don't want to be remembered by athletic stats but my hard work and dedication as a person on and off the field. Arthur Ashe has left foot prints of a man that I am willing to follow.

“How do you exemplify the ideals of Arthur Ashe?”

By: Emma Crush

After learning about Arthur Ash and all of his accomplishments on and off the tennis court, I thought about my life. Do I exemplify his ideals? The answer is yes, I do try. I am ten years old and enjoy helping the “little stars” in our NJTL program. I do not judge kids by their ethnic background, religion or color of their skin. I look at the kind of person they are on the inside.

I know that Arthur Ash was big on education. I try very hard to do my best. I have a reading disability so I try to over come this by listening very hard. My mom say’s I am an “oral learner”. I have to work very hard to read and understand science and social studies, but I know that I need to do well in school in order to move ahead. Arthur Ash once said that for every hour on the court, you need to spend two hours studying. I would rather be playing but I try to get good grades.

I have been an alter server in my church. It makes me feel good to participate in the mass. My whole family does some kind of stewardship. I have been brought up knowing that you have to give back in order to receive the most benefits in life.

Mostly though, I like helping others. I fill very responsible when my neighbor asks me to watch her two children (4 and 3 years old) while she goes inside to take care of the new baby. I love it when we come home and the kids are waiting for me to get out of the car to ask me if I can play.

Everything I have read about Arthur Ash shows me that he was also a family man. I love my family very much. It is very important for me to spend time with my Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, and cousins when they come to town.

Arthur Ash was a great man, and I hope to someday exemplify his tennis accomplishments. (I can dream, can’t I?) In the mean time, I will work hard practicing and playing.

7/8/08

How do You Exemplify The Ideals of Arthur Ashe

I think I exemplify the ideals of Arthur Ashe by being tough sometimes like he had to be. I remember how I climbed a 10 foot fence when I was 8 years old so I could play tennis. It was my first lesson and my coach Kame Murray forgot the keys to the gate. I did not let the locked gate stop me from playing tennis. Arthur Ashe did not let doors that were locked to him, stop him from playing tennis, because of his skin color. I also like to help people like Arthur Ashe did. My Dad is on sick and shut visitation at our church, and I always go with him to visit those people that are unable to come to church because they are sick. When I see homeless people I give them money that I get from my dad. I like helping them the way Arthur Ashe helped people. My church had a tennis enrichment program during Vacation Bible School and I was chosen to show tennis strokes to a lot of kids who had never played tennis before. I work very hard in school and always get A's and B's. Last year I won two Certificates of Achievement in the summer junior development program at the tennis camp I went to. I got these certificates for being the best during the camp. This is my second essay in 2 days. When I found out I had to write a different essay because my dad got the wrong entry form off of the internet I cried. Later I decided I should write this essay, because I know Arthur Ashe who have done the same.

Emulating a Champion: My View of Arthur Ashe

Michelle Matoke

The senior citizen sits in the chair, waiting. I glance at her, concerned for her welfare. She lifts her head, recognizing my presence, and I walk across the hall, smile and ask her, "Do you need help?" Part of my job at the local hospital is to help older citizens who are in the rehab center. I offer myself as an instrument of service to them, a small token of gratitude of all they have done in their early years.

Next, I head over to the main hospital for my next shift. I help the nurses, offering patients water or juice, or just sitting to chat with them. The fact that I am African-American and working there instead of sitting in front of a TV for 3 to 4 hours makes them proud of me.

I strive to be different. Like Arthur Ashe, tennis phenomenon, I believe that a person should not want to be remembered only for their sport or recreational accomplishments. I want to be thought of as a young person who gave back to her community, and was an example that young people can look up to. Not in a proud or conceited way, just in a way that allows me to use my talents to the best of my abilities. When I get older, I want to go to medical school and become a doctor, so I can help patients fight off diseases like AIDS, the very same disease that killed Ashe.

Arthur Ashe was a champion not only on the court, but in the community as well. He encouraged students to get active and to make even more time for books as they did anything else. These same views that he held up and put all his faith in, are what caused him to become such a revered and respected figure on and off the court.

Although he has passed, the values that he strove to instill in children like me will continue to live on, building us up and moving us forward.

Arthur Ashe was a legend! He won four grand slams, he founded the NJTL, and he fought against discrimination.

I hadn't heard of Arthur Ashe before I started playing tennis, but when I learned about him and what he has accomplished, he has been my hero ever since. I have tried to do things to change people like he has changed people, but I haven't succeeded yet. I mean, he founded the NJTL! That league helps kids to like play tennis instead of being stuck at home doing nothing. Now, I'm not saying that I've done anything that big, but I do help kids. I am currently helping at a tennis camp teaching kids how to play tennis. When I'm not at the camp, I'm helping my coach, teaching other kids on how to improve their strokes.

I personally have never had any problems dealing with discrimination, but I have friends who have. When I see someone being discriminated against, I try to help them out by standing up for them. Now, I'm not saying that I get physical or anything like that, but you know, I make it so they get the point!

The thing I admire most about Ashe is that he won four grand slams. I want to be able to do that one day. I'm at the stage where I'm just starting to enter tournaments, so I don't think that I'll be winning any grand slams anytime soon, but I'll never give up hope!

So, these are some ways that I exemplify the ideals of Arthur Ashe. I hope that one day, kids will be writing essays about me and my legacy.

Arthur Ashe Essay Contest

Growing up in the heart of the segregation and racial injustice of Richmond, Virginia, was Arthur Ashe. Ashe believed that "for every hour spent on the playing field, two should be spent with a book." With that he worked hard and kept his head in the books, earning himself the top spot in his graduating class as an "A" student, while also starting his tennis career in the middle of a blacks-only playground. Like Ashe, I have worked hard using what I was given to be able to graduate in the top of my class. I have also worked endlessly, giving back, even sometimes without knowing, through my involvement with Big Brothers Big Sisters of America (BBBS), my church, and my community. Ashe made a scene both on and off the court as both a prominent African American tennis player and a civil rights leader, speaking out against apartheid in South Africa after being denied a visa for entry into the country. Ashe also topped the charts with 33 career titles, with wins in the Australian Open, Wimbledon, the US Open, and the French Open. Ashe's legacy left behind growing NJTL programs, which I participate in. These programs emphasize leadership, fitness, discipline, punctuality, and other life qualities along with skills for a tournament level tennis game. I use this program to better myself in tennis and give back by helping beginning players to learn the game. Ashe always saw the better in life, even when he contracted AIDS through a blood transfusion. He was never pessimistic and never asked, "God, why me?"

Being an African American in a Caucasian inclined society, Ashe made it. While struggling with AIDS, a positive image and attitude was kept and Ashe made an impact. Adversity was the cornerstone of Ashe's life just as it has been mine, yet we've made it through. I may not have faced situations as severe or life-changing as Ashe, but with what I have encountered I have taken the experience and used it to succeed in my future. I know that as just a tennis player, I will never conquer the greatest player in the world; but as a talented, intellectual, and giving individual I can conquer all that the world might throw at me. So in traversing through the face of adversity, I exemplify the ideals of Arthur Ashe; for it was he that said, "I have tried to keep on with my striving because this is the only hope I have of ever achieving anything worthwhile and lasting." For one to exemplify the ideas and ideals of Arthur Ashe, they must portray qualities of leadership, strength to overcome adversity, and recognize the need for social reform. This is my quest in life, and hopefully my journey has been a start in leaving a legacy as memorable as that of Arthur Ashe.