

NYS TESOL Essay Contest  
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Today, we don't know how to use our hands to pick up a book and read it, look through a newspaper or look at what's going on around us. We live in a world now where it is all about technology. The first thing we do now is check our inboxes and social media.

When we are out and we see a poor person on the street we don't say, "How are you?" We live in a world where people are judged and that is not right. We are all human. There are millionaires who have infinite money and don't help the less fortunate people. In our life, we need to start lending a helping hand to our friends and strangers. We were all created similar but not exactly the same. We are all worth the same in this life.

I came from El Salvador seven months ago. My journey to the United States was very difficult. When I came here I did not have many people that were around to help me. Sometimes the people who try and reach out to you are not good people. They do not have the best intentions. I had to find people who wanted the best for me. I had to continue to remember my dreams and my goals for being in the United States.

Some of the people who want the best for us are not always family or friends, they may be people who come into our life suddenly and impact us with a simple conversation. In my life, I will never forget sitting and talking to my teacher and classmate one afternoon. I frequently think about the advice that they gave me that day. It meant a lot to me to talk to them about my journey. They were there for me when I needed a helping hand and I did not have anyone to talk to.

You do not have to be afraid to talk to strangers and share your life because you do not know what has happened in their life. Some people may be going through the same thing that happened to you. Take something away from every conversation. I will always lend a helping hand to someone who is in need. I think that we do not have to be discouraged no matter the problems and difficulties that we face day by day because we live in a world that is so imperfect. My motivation is my family that I left behind and the opportunity that I have in this country. I have to convert my struggles into motivation and effort to get ahead and make my family proud of me.

Life is like a movie, one turn it is perfect, the next there is action, sometimes drama, then sadness. Through it all there are many people who want the best for you. That is why we all have two hands, to help ourselves and to help other people.