

One of the things I value about myself is that I am nice and accepting towards everybody. This was challenged when people at my high school started making fun of a boy. He was quite strange, and kept approaching me to talk. I did not particularly want to be his friend, but I was never mean to him. It felt wrong to shun him. I let him speak his mind, and acknowledged him in the halls when he said hello instead of ignoring him like everybody else. Some of my close friends started making fun of me because of this, and I thought about telling him to leave me alone or just ignoring him. My values kept me from doing that, and when I look back I am glad I resisted. I felt embarrassed about it then, but it is something that makes me proud of my chosen behavior now.

Another time my values were challenged is when someone in my class asked me for answers to a homework. I value the fact that I can help people when they need it. Another of my values is justice and when the homework answers escalated into an everyday ordeal I was torn between helping my friend do better in the class and making sure that what I was doing was fair. I was angry at my friend for putting me in that position and frustrated that I couldn't just choose one of my values to listen to without feeling guilty about the other. I ended up telling the friend that they could no longer have my answers, but offering to help them study for tests or quizzes. After this they stopped talking to me. Even though I was sad that I had lost a cheery face to talk to in class every day, what I did felt right and even then I did not regret what I did.

Yet another time that my values were challenged was when I was deciding what college to pick. I was torn between a college almost within walking distance of my house, or The University of Cincinnati. Which college I chose is obvious, but the decision to me was not that clear. I wanted somewhere I could prosper. I knew that I would rely on my parents a lot and have them as a resource when I had trouble with homework or just life in general if I chose the closer school. However, I also knew that being so far away from them would be challenging, and that I *couldn't* rely on them while I was here. I decided to create a new value for myself: independence. I wanted to be able to function as an adult on my own. I knew if I stayed close to my family I would not be forced into that environment until I wanted a job or went to Medical school. I wanted to learn sooner rather than later so that I would know how to accomplish things on my own before employers were introduced into the picture. Although I am sad that I don't get to see my family as often as I would like, I believe I made the best decision for me.