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# Please and Thank You

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Alexa Preucil

## Please and Thank You

Growing up in today's society, many different viewpoints are thrown at you as you search to find yourself. I find it almost impossible to secure one's own beliefs while society attempts to impose its own upon you. Although I am still struggling to secure my own core beliefs, I have always believed in the power of good manners. It may sound simple, but every day fewer people use them. From a young age we are taught, hopefully, our 'pleases' and 'thank yous.' I believe those key words have the potential to unlock doors to a brighter future.

Since I was a small child, I was taught proper manners. As tedious as it seemed through my juvenile perspective, I learned to say please when I asked for something and to say thank you when someone gave something to me. At that age I didn't know why I was being taught this, but I listened regardless. Now as a young adult, I am gracious that I was fortunate enough to be educated in proper etiquette. I have been able to exercise the manners learned at home and apply to them to my outside experiences.

Having proper manners, or the lack thereof, has the ability to make an instant first impression. Saying "good morning" or a simple "hello" portray a sense of warmth to a person's personality. Manners can be actions as well. Chivalry such as holding the door open for someone behind you, or making eye contact while you speak to someone are indicators of a thoughtful or confident person. Saying "excuse me" or "sorry" if you accidentally bump into someone helps demonstrate a respect for others. On the other hand, forgetting these acts of courtesy can cause people to perceive a person as rude or insecure. Actions such as these can be crucial for job opportunities. Proper manners can set someone apart from other applicants who may not have demonstrated them as well. Employers are interested in working with someone who is considerate and secure in themselves as opposed to someone who is thoughtless of others.

From personal example, I have a summer job at my local pool snack stand. I interact with numerous people from different backgrounds who live within various parts of the county. I always make sure I use my manners to please customers and thank them for their services. However, it is surprising how little courtesy is returned. Many people bark their orders or become impatient as my coworkers and I struggle to fulfill large orders with a line trailing behind the stand. It brightens my entire day when someone finally returns that thank you, or smiles saying, "Have a nice day." Simple gestures can change a person's mindset completely and elate them.

Today, the United States does not have a good reputation and is regarded by other nations as selfish and ignorant. If people strive to remember their manners, this perception can be changed. The choice is up to people of our generation to become educated in etiquette and pass their knowledge to their children. Good manners can carry a person far through life.

Thank you.

I am a student at Bucknell University studying Environmental Science. I have a sister who

attends Gettysburg College and a twin brother who plays football for Ithaca College. I am from Cranford, New Jersey, and I love to play lacrosse, tennis, and sing. I would like to thank my family for everything they do for me.