

SERENA LEMAY.....Age 13, Grade 8

In 500 words or less, answer the following prompt: "What can I do now, and what would I like to do in the future, to promote a Culture of Life in our Country?"

Respecting life to me means that, you were put on this earth for a reason. You, were put on this earth to be the one who makes a difference. You, were made to have a chance to be the one who changes the world. One decision, can mess up your whole chance. If you decide to do harm to others then u are throwing away your chance. It's all about the chances you get in life. Take them for granted. We all need to find the good in ourselves to be that difference, the one who took that chance. Even if you don't make a huge impact one decision at a time, they build up to shape who you are. The little things really matter. If you see that someone is having a bad day and it is visible, say something, ask them if they want to talk or just show that you care enough to listen. You never know what that person could be going through. You just talking to them could make their whole day a lot better.

Respecting life is also being aware of what is around you. If you see that there is something wrong with one of your friends, or even someone who u have never even talked to, say something, don't just let it be their problem. In elementary school I used to always hear teachers say that you should treat everyone like they are Jesus. That you never know who could be "Jesus in disguise". I never really understood what they meant by that but I realize now that it means that God is in every single one of us. It's always the little things that matter, big things matter too but the little things build up higher than the big things.

Things that I can do now to respect life and be a better person is to make someone's day better by just talking to them. Things that I can do more in the future is try to make that difference that I have a chance to make. I want to be a surgeon when I am older. The reason I want to be a surgeon is because, if I go to school and get the knowledge and skills to help save people's lives then i would like to use it.