

Cheating Cheats You

As the famous author Scott Alexander once said, "All good is hard. All evil is easy. Dying, losing, cheating, and mediocrity is easy. Stay away from easy". I believe cheating solves temporary problems but it leaves permanent results. People engage in cheating all the time and it's painful to watch it happen. I have learned you shouldn't be swayed to cheat just because everybody else does. Hard work always pays off while cheating backfires as proven by many experiences throughout my life.

I have been swimming on a swim team for about six years. I remember one specific moment in my swimming career that helped me realize that cheating really does backfire. I was at a swim meet and had just finished swimming the 50 yard breaststroke. I saw one of my teammates weeping in the corner, her head tucked in her mother's tear-soaked shoulder. I leaned closer to see if I could hear anything she was saying. I faintly heard her shaky voice say, " Why do I have to swim so bad,"and although she didn't know the answer; I did. She always cheated during practice. Like many others, she would pull on the lane ropes, do drills incorrectly, and sit out in practice. This event gave me proof that cheating does affect people, it showed me that people who cheat may look good at first, like in practice, but will look bad later.

Being in 7th grade, its hard to imagine that school can be very stressful. My anxiety grows in me when I see people cheating through school and taking the easy way out. I see people all the time copy off of others' homework when they don't do theirs, or cheat on tests when they can. I feel very angry when people do this because I put a lot of effort into school; therefore its not fair that some people take "shortcuts" and get off easy. It turns out "shortcuts" steer you on the wrong path. School is for learning, and you can't learn if you cheat. Thats why I always have to remind myself that doing the right thing pays off and little temporary fixes, like cheating, can cause permanent gaps in learning.

Hard work is essential for success, and I believe you can't cheat yourself out of hard work. I play violin in DYAO, a youth conservatory orchestra. My orchestra holds seating auditions about three times a year. Last seating audition, I did not work hard enough on my music. I desired time to relax and work on other things. When I came for my seating auditions, I really tensed up, noticing that everyone else seemed a lot more prepared than I. When it was my turn, I reluctantly headed to the room where the auditions were conducted. I heard the musician in front of me and I got really keyed-up, like a deer in headlights. I took a deep breath, placed my bow on the string and " squack!" I play the wrong first note. This experience helped me understand that in order to be proud of what I accomplish in seating auditions, I can't cheat myself out of hard work. Hard work always pays off and if you avoid it, you are setting yourself up to fail.

I believe in anti-cheating. I believe that in order for us to succeed we must work hard, push to achieve more and be confident that our preparation has paid off. Remember, all things worth having are hard to accomplish. And though we might be tempted into doing things the easy way you can ask yourself this "Is it worth it?" I can tell you this, cheating is manipulative. Its tempting, and may fool you into thinking that it is working but in the long run, it is always the wrong choice.