

Change. A word. Only six letters, but with a potentially powerful meaning. Change is something that everyone wants, has wanted to have, and will want to have at some point in their life. It is something that starts small and grows with time and commitment. For people, change is usually something that has to be initiated. The initiation starts with a goal, a desire. Whatever that objective is, the initiation is what activates change, like eating healthier food to get in better shape, or putting more hours in at the office to earn extra money to buy a new car. You need to start *now*. Not tomorrow, because we all know that will turn into the next day, then the day after that. The time is now.

Now is when society needs to change so that everyone views each other equally and with the same respect. The initiation? One person at a time, educating other people about the negative outcomes of anti-black law enforcement, discrimination of gay marriage, poverty, unjust immigration reform, sexual harassment, and the other damaging issues making their way through politics and media today. All it takes is for everyone to open their eyes to how much better the world and life has the potential to be. This may not be easy, but it sure is possible.

It begins with education, and teaching the future generations about how we, as a whole, can become better people. Education is the future. By teaching the next generation about these topics and how to make good decisions, we are teaching them how to live in a world where no one is perfect and everyone has their unique qualities and differences.

In our circumstance, I feel the initiation has begun, and the society is becoming more educated about current political and social issues. This is causing more people to stand up for equal rights and respect. Schools in our community are taking action, including my school. By holding anti-bullying sessions, debates about gay rights, and examining how women and girls are

treated in other parts of the world, students are becoming more educated at an early age. These events may not make a significant impact in the overall path to reaching our goal, but they are making an example of what other schools can do. Ten years ago, this would not have happened. When life presents us with a challenge, we are given a choice to make: to either slack off and take the easy way out, or to push through the struggle and take advantage of the opportunity to get stronger. If *everyone* always made the right choice, I would not be sitting here writing about the need for positive change. But now, since more people are getting educated about making the right decisions, we are slowly becoming a better whole. Maybe one day, we will reach our goal. Maybe we won't. Either way, we can still try. There is no harm in it.

The time for change is now; it will always be now. We have a goal and have begun the initiation. All we need is to believe in our capabilities and take advantage of our potential to become better individuals. If everyone contributes to the effort, the society as a whole will benefit. No one can tell you when to start. We can only educate, encourage, support, and help each other. The time for change is now, and the time will always be *now*.