2018 International Essay Contest for Young People [Children's Category – Honorable Mention]

## A small step

(Original)

Kyle Galea (Age 13, Malta) St Albert the Great College, Fgura

In life, there are people who just see the world through a negative critical lens: corrupt, depressing and so confusing. Many people on the other hand just ignore these opinions and walk about their lives ignoring these adverse signs. People are ruining themselves as well as Earth and its inhabitants.

Various people on the internet always try to get other's attention by posting videos about themselves. They get money by making videos of all sorts of things like gameplay, vines, memes, but in reality, it's pointless, nothing is really gained from such acts of protagonism.

People watching videos just see a nice person with a 'nice personality' saying they want to 'entertain', are just hearing and seeing a plain, old lie. Those viewers don't realise that those people only say that to become more popular and get more money. People often lie online, and since the people online are just sending messages or making posts, no one can tell if they're lying. I want to change this, I want to change such attitudes and ways of thinking by first and foremost starting by myself.

The change I want, and I can make starts within myself. Being a thirteen-year-old I'm constantly connected to social media and pressurised to "like" posts or watch silly videos. I can stop myself from doing this and will start now. How? By focusing on other things that I'm actually surrounded with. Am I listening to my breathing rhythm? Am I listening to the world around me? Am I listening to my loved ones, my family? This is the first change I can make, and many people can do this too.

I want to spend more time hearing my grandma and grandpa telling me why it's important to achieve my dreams in life. I want to water the plants in my garden, construct a rock garden, get my hands into a cake mixture and taste freshly squeezed strawberries.

I want to explore what my country has to offer and encourage friends and family do the same. I need to appreciate further what I can do within my capabilities and focus further towards the protection of my local environment. I want to encourage my school to have at least 5 plants per classroom and write to the local authorities to consider a law to promote greener areas. Imagine a tree is planted for every marriage, new house, new-born or any person that leaves our planet. It would symbolise that every person matters as much as our Earth matters. I want a greener planet for myself and the future generations because I have nowhere else to go.

During these past millennia, history has twisted and turned humans with new ideas and beliefs. New inventions have brought progress as well as regress whilst the divide between rich and poor seems to widen. We tend to ignore what we read and hear in the news in an alarming matter. We need to distribute our care towards others and start pushing further to our local authorities that we care what is happening around us. I want to show care towards what surrounds me and pass on this care through my actions and beliefs.

So, the question is: Will you embrace what everyone does because it's the common dogma? Or will you become a better informed and decent person and think about the opportunities we as living beings can provide to our community?

I choose the latter, because I care for the well-being of all living creatures.