

2020 International Essay Contest for Young People

[Children's Category – 2nd Prize]

Wiser Guider Future

(Original)

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Dear Praise,

How are you ten years ago? I look back and I see you, full of life, a complete dreamer and believer of a better tomorrow. A lot of events and innovations have taken place, many that would blow your 2020 outdated mind. I need to let you know some, given the fact that you are much younger and would need guidance from me, your future 2030 self.

At 22 years, I have had many good and unpleasant life experiences in the past decade. Though I cannot tell you exactly what they are and how they happened, but I can give you some red flags and words of wisdom on what the future has in store.

The world has developed far more than you can imagine. When you think of the future, you might be thinking only about machines, robots and even more advanced electronic gadgets. Well, you are about to be proven wrong by me.

Agriculture and the environment are playing major roles in the society, though technology has helped make their relevance more impactful. Agriculture has eventually overtaken crude oil as the major source of revenue and the state of the environment is also being taken more seriously. Both are connecting different nations together, brainstorming and offering solutions to our global challenges and with different sectors coming together to support each other. Farm produce are now sourced locally, fresh, and healthy, and there is a ban on the use of chemical preservatives and cancerous food colourings. Many developing countries are functioning better today, and more importantly, children are no longer being used as labourers in our factories and farms.

At the moment, I am an environmentalist and my job is to ensure that there is a healthy ecosystem in Nigeria, applying best practices to protect our environment. I also draft policies that encourage reduction of carbon emissions from our industries and monitor for strict compliance to our environmental laws. Every year, we plant millions of trees to sustain

and promote a green environment. Also, the different government agencies are helping each other; the new ministry of earth conservation continues to provide the much needed funding for our agency, supporting our collective efforts in meeting the United Nations sustainable development goal on climate action this year, 2030.

My career choice as an environmentalist was influenced greatly by our local farmers, climate change activists, and social & healthcare workers. These caring groups of men and women spurred me through their life-saving actions such as campaigning to save our environment from oil spills, seeking important legislations on climate change, caring for the most vulnerable in our society, and very importantly, going all out to care for those with deadly diseases like the Ebola and Covid-19.

The Covid-19, that was introduced to humans in late 2019, that led to a global pandemic, is no longer a problem in 2030. Vaccines have been developed, approved and distributed widely to government authorized hospitals which are administering free to everyone. Although things have not been the same, however, life has improved tremendously since the outbreak; businesses have re-bounced from their losses, and majority of the people have embraced the social distancing rules, and other laid down health protocols to prevent resurgence. Generally, the Covid-19 pandemic has served as a wakeup call to anyone who had not been taking good hygiene practices seriously. The passion and sacrifices of our healthcare workers is a worthy example of the human fighting spirit and remains the hallmark of our victory over the worst pandemic in modern history.

As I conclude, I would like to remind you of who you are; a fearless, hardworking, smart, and multitalented girl who stands up for what she believes are right and true. Always remember that the future is not cast in stone, it is your daily decisions that will determine the reality of this inescapable future; you have the power to make or mar it. But I will always believe in you to stay determined, intentional, and take the right decisions to step into your inspiring future.

I am confident that your exceptional attributes will guide you to this future which I am intentionally creating beyond your 2030 self.

With love,
Praise