

2020 International Essay Contest for Young People

[Children's Category – Honorable Mention]

A Letter From Myself in 2030

(Original)

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(Age 11, U.S.A.)

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Dear Elise,

I know you're stressed right now because school feels like someone dropped an elephant on your head every day, but know that it will get better. One day, your curiosity and love for helping people will inspire you to explore the Amazon Rainforest to find plants and microbes to heal.

There are diseases in your world right now you think cannot be cured. But know this: you will be part of the solution. Right now, you love to bake, make jewelry, read, and make people laugh. Your parents call you Houdini because you're good at finding things others lost.

What people are losing in your time is hope, but you will grow up to restore it. Keep walking your unique path—it will lead you to lift up others.

Know this—in ten years, because people finally made the right choices, the world will be a Garden of Eden again. On every solar-paneled roof, there will be a garden with wonderful things to eat. All the parking lots will be turned into gardens because people don't own cars anymore. Whenever you need to go somewhere, a self-driving hydrogen-powered flying taxi picks you up and drops you off. Because people don't have car payments anymore, they have more time to spend with their families and "smell the roses," which are now literally blooming everywhere. As for the oceans, we used oysters and kelp forests to help clean it up, and we make our clothes out of biodegradable algae. We don't act as we did before—which was trashing 99% of what we bought within six months.

You may feel bad now because school only defines you one way and measures only one kind of intelligence. But know they left out the best stuff about you. And it is this creative

intelligence and helpful heart that will lift up the world.

Your future 21-year-old self,
Elise