

2022 International Essay Contest for Young People

[Youth Category – Honorable Mention]

## **My value**

(Original)

*David Jun Sung*

*(Age 16, South Korea)*

*US International School, Seoul*

Which value is most important? It is hard to choose, because values determine our life. My most important value is courage.

The reason why I chose courage is that I think it is a starting point of every way which is headed to success. Everyone has their own goal for their life, and for achieving it, someone tries to develop their own strengths, somebody tries to eliminate their weak part, and someone finds the way which nobody tried, but to start these plans they all need courage.

Now, I'm going to tell you about some experiences. When I was a kid, I had a small and trivial goal, it was to get a perfect score on the final exam, but at that time I was not good at studying something. So a few of my friends mocked me when they heard about my goal, and I also thought I am not smart enough to get to my goal. As time passed, my confidence was getting lower. In fact, my last score was just 69 out of 100.

I tried to give up until I read a story which was about the man who was not a smart student in school, but the smartest guy in all of human history, Albert Einstein. At that time, I thought maybe I am also a genius and can make it if I just work hard. Then I worked harder than anyone, and when it was the day of the test, I was not afraid and I got confidence from it. And I achieved my goal, and at the same time, I realized something very important. It wasn't that I didn't have talent, it also wasn't that I didn't have enough patience to do hard work, I just needed some courage for myself.

I think this is also your story. Many people in the world don't even think about starting if there is anything that makes a risk. Many people and perhaps even you won't be able to know your talent your whole life if you don't have any courage to start. There is one more

example. This example is about the most important part of courage, for example, choosing courage in a very important situation or very nervous moment which can make a big change in your life. This looks like it doesn't have a connection with courage, but I'll tell you my other experience to explain this.

When I was in middle school, there was a soccer competition, and our team advanced to the finals. When the score was 1 to 1, we had a chance to kick a penalty kick. That role was just for me, the striker of the team, but I was too nervous and scared, because I didn't have much experience with penalty kicks. And all the students who were not even in the classroom were watching me through the window. It felt like my brain was going to explode trying to choose an option: should I kick left? Right? Should I just kick as hard as possible? Or just pass it to my friend and give him a perfect chance? But at that time I decided to have courage myself and just do what I wanted. And I just kicked it into the middle of the goal posts very slowly to make a fake and the result could be known by my teammates' cheers.

When I think of that moment again, I think the reason I succeeded in scoring that goal was because of courage. If I kept getting scared about my choice and kept being scared to fail, I would not make it. There is a famous saying by Terrence, "God helps the guy who is with courage." And to prove this, we can know that there is no person who got to their goal without courage, like Steven Jobs, Thomas Edison, and all the great men and women in history who did not lose their courage when they had to make a conclusion for each moment, just like when I made the penalty kick.

These examples and logic are the reason why I think that courage is the most important value to me, and hope the lesson of this essay also reaches you.