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Flying Leathernecks Essay: Courage and Commitment

Often, looking to the past can provide great insight into navigating the present and embracing what lies ahead. As a high school student learning to handle uncertainty, the fast-approaching future, and a growing desire to better understand myself, figures of the past who led their lives with purpose and conviction are a great inspiration. For me, no American is a better role model than Eleanor Roosevelt. As a woman of strong moral character and determination, Mrs. Roosevelt exemplified many values I hope to continue developing. Her courage in pushing for civil rights and her lifelong commitment to equality established her as an American dedicated to the betterment of this nation.

To begin, Eleanor Roosevelt was an individual who displayed great courage. I believe courage is more than classic feats of bravery- it is also a willingness to put oneself out there and stand by moral decisions, even in the face of judgment and hostility. Mrs. Roosevelt faced backlash for supporting civil rights movements for African and Asian Americans. Despite this, she continued to advocate for change and justice and used her power and influence as First Lady to try and improve the lives of repressed minorities, even though she was often at odds with other politicians and influential figures. Her courage also comes through because she was a woman, that too a woman in a man's world. She was expected to uphold the societal expectations of women, but instead, she chose to break with them- not an easy feat.

I hope to embody Eleanor Roosevelt's courage in a multitude of ways. As an individual, I am working towards accepting and embracing who I am, regardless of the thoughts and opinions of others. Although there will always be detractors, my goal remains to trust my instincts and morals. I also strive to pursue my goals and aspirations with the same passion as Mrs. Roosevelt, regardless of what they may be. In the long run, I know I will exercise courage when overcoming challenges and facing new experiences.

Another trait that Eleanor Roosevelt exemplified was commitment. She maintained lifelong ties to several significant movements in America at the time, like women's rights, civil rights, and the fight against child labor. These issues took years and years of struggle and protest to gain public attention and support, and Eleanor Roosevelt gave them her lifelong dedication. After her time as First Lady, Mrs. Roosevelt became more active on the social justice front. She was a U.S. delegate to the United Nations, a member of the Peace Corps Advisory Board, and a chairman of the President's Commission on the Status of Women. Her commitment to worldwide peace and equality was nothing short of her life's work.

Mrs. Roosevelt's level of commitment remains an inspiration, and I intend to follow her example by giving my commitments my undivided attention and passion. Whether commitments be academic, extracurricular, voluntary, or even pastimes, I know that my efforts will make all the difference in my life, perhaps even impacting the lives of others. A commitment to my belief system and outlook is also important to me so that my opinions and perspectives are only strengthened by adversity. Perhaps most importantly, I strive to remain committed to myself and my growth, as well as that of those around me.

In conclusion, Eleanor Roosevelt is nothing short of an exemplary American in terms of character and choices. I admire her for her courage and commitment in multiple forms, and I look up to her as I continue to develop my morals and outlook. Ultimately, Mrs. Roosevelt is proof that figures of the past continue to offer guidance and perspective, especially for those who seek purpose and direction.

Works Cited

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2. Michals, Debra. "Eleanor Roosevelt ." *Biography: Eleanor Roosevelt*, National Women's History Museum , 2017, www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/eleanor-roosevelt.