

Applicant's Name: Jameka Jones

Applicant's SSN: _____
(Last 4 Digits)

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Turning Challenges into Opportunities

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to know that today's world is in dire need of change—change in politics, change in morals, and a change in today's social aspects as well. One person can not do it all, but that one person sure can help spark a fire that will change the world in some way..

I believe today's world does need change, and to aid in getting this goal accomplished, there are needs that must be corrected in our society and culture; challenges that we must turn into opportunities. Too often, by Hip-Hop artists, there are messages of hate, disrespect and degradation of women embedded into our minds through mainstream music we listen to, and often we see the breakdown of the family unit's prominence in homes today. This can all be stopped. All it takes is one person to stand up and fight against it. I plan to make a difference through breaking down barriers of things that may limit us as young people in society. I want to show that the ideas and stereotypes that many people associate young adults with are simply those; ideas and stereotypes.

Upon completion of my high school career, I currently plan on furthering my education at Longwood University and will obtain my degree

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in Elementary Education and a minor in Business. After this, I will start my own business; a child daycare/recreational center and plan to expand to have a nation-wide franchise. Through my entrepreneurial goals and desires, I want to show other African-American women, and all people in general, that success can be achieved without being degraded, or having a bad reputation. I want to show that although the media may portray women negatively, many of us are doing positive things in today's world. We are a valuable asset to all things that we have a hand in participating. My generation, and generations coming behind me need to see and be able to accept that there are educated people that persevere despite it not being popular, and despite facing persecution for it. People need to see that success can be achieved without having to lower your social or moral standards .

I feel that if more people see at least ONE person around them doing something positive with their life, it will inspire them to do the same. One by one, with the passing of time and future generations, negative stereotypes and ideas associated with young people will begin to

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disappear. The disappearance of these connotations would help to change today's world, morally, socially, and perhaps even politically to get our world back on track.

I choose, this day forward, with all that I know and believe, to take the challenges that I face as a young woman and turn them into opportunities. One person CAN make a difference.