

The Prompt:

A role model is a person you admire or look up to. Before you begin writing, think about someone you look up to. Why do you admire this person? Write a composition in which you explain to your classmates whom you admire and why you admire this person.

The Model Essay:

A Ray of Light

She was a lost cause. No one could help her because she was unable to communicate. Why did Anne Sullivan believe she could help her?

Sullivan undertook a task that many thought to be impossible: to establish some means of communication with Helen Keller and to bring this blind, deaf, and mute girl into a world that she could never before have imagined. Of all the influential people throughout time, Anne Sullivan is the one I most admire. Because of her determination, her ability to connect with a deeply troubled child, and her defiance of the odds against her, she set an important example for all of us.

Physically, Anne Sullivan was much like other women of the nineteenth century. She was an everyday person on the outside; however, her character reveals that her ordinary appearance was misleading. Her greatest qualities lay within. Anne was an intelligent woman who could deal with all that life threw her way. In 1887, life gave her the opportunity to meet her greatest challenge, Helen Keller. To be able to cope with all that came with this job, she relied on her patient temperament as well as her loving and optimistic nature. Regardless of how grim the situation appeared to others, Anne saw the tiny increments of progress in Helen, and no matter how long it took, she refused to give up her hope that someday Helen would be able to function like other children.

To truly touch and brighten the life of a child is one of the most incredible achievements that one could ever hope to reach. I personally hold a great admiration for Anne Sullivan because she connected with a

Introduction

Attention-getting opener

Main idea statement, identifying 3 traits

Body

Trait 1

Support: explanation and anecdote

Trait 2

child and made her life better. Helen Keller had lived a life of complete frustration, absolutely cut off from the world around her. Anne Sullivan changed that. She taught a girl who knew nothing of relationships and love to communicate with a world she could neither see nor hear. Helen Keller's life was changed for the better because one woman's inexhaustible efforts paid off. Anne Sullivan connected with her, as one human being to another.

Support:
explanation

An accomplishment second only to that of touching the life of a child is completing what most would consider an impossible task. Anne Sullivan did both. Though many before her had failed, she began her task as though nothing could stop her. Even after several minor failures of her own, Anne continued to push Helen and herself to find a way for this little girl to know the outside world. She put in long hours of frustration and hope in order to complete her task. Most people in her position would have given up and left this poor girl to fend for herself, but Anne Sullivan was different: she put Helen before all else. And by defying the odds, she set herself apart from all others.

Trait 3

Support:
explanation and anecdote

Bringing a ray of light to the life of a child, though many obstacles might stand in your path, is a feat that few accomplish. Anne Sullivan succeeded with her never-ending patience and love. She stands as an extraordinary role model for me in that she encompasses all that I hope to be and accomplish in my life.

Conclusion
Reflection on the main idea