

The College at Brockport: State University of New York
Digital Commons @Brockport

Brockport Believes Essay Project

June 2014

This I Believe

Tyler Sieczkarek

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/bportbelieves>

Recommended Citation

Sieczkarek, Tyler, "This I Believe" (2014). *Brockport Believes Essay Project*. 10.
<http://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/bportbelieves/10>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @Brockport. It has been accepted for inclusion in Brockport Believes Essay Project by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @Brockport. For more information, please contact kmayers@brockport.edu.

Tyler Sieczkarek

This I believe Final Paper

People love to complain about how much homework they have or how they didn't get enough playing time during the big game. Well there are some people that don't even get the opportunity to play at all or be able to do their homework on their own. Students with disabilities sometimes just get overlooked and never are given a chance based on the fact they that have a disability. I believe that people need to realize that a disability does not define that person or make them who they are because underneath that disability there is a person and they deserve an equal chance.

When I was in high school playing on the Varsity Basketball team there was a boy name Mark Montanari who had Down syndrome and loved the game of basketball. The JV coach at the time told him that he could be on the team and would be able to get some game time but only if he showed up to every practice and every home game for that year. Well Mark held up to that was able to play in his first high school game of his career. Mark had 4 points and played the final 3 minutes of the second half. When he scored his first basket the whole gym erupted and the smile on Marks face was priceless. In an interview after the game a reporter asked Mark "So who is the best shooter on the team" Mark answered "I am the best". This experienced I shared with Mark was eye opening and truly the highlight of my senior season.

The joy this person can get from making just 4 points in three minutes of play is inspiring to me and all of the people who were involved in this is just amazing. When I become a professional I will share this story with my students and inform them that no one should be left out. It is my mission to incorporate all kinds of people no matter what. I believe that people need to realize that a disability does not define that person or make them who they are because underneath that disability there is a person and they deserve an equal chance.