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Assignment 6

Engaged Citizen Hall of Fame

My father's tireless dedication to promoting justice, dissent, and equality throughout his 30-year career in the IT industry, combined with his unwavering commitment to treating all employees fairly and equally, demonstrate his exceptional qualities as an engaged citizen and make him worthy of nomination to the Engaged Citizenship Hall of Fame.

My father, Thomas Palmeri, is a remarkable individual who has dedicated his life to making a positive impact on those around him. Throughout his 30 years in the IT industry as a support specialist and team leader, he has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to engaged citizenship and the values of justice, dissent, and equality. Additionally, his annual participation in a charity run for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society is a testament to his selflessness and commitment to making a difference in the world. For these reasons, I believe my dad should be nominated for the Engaged Citizenship Hall of Fame. This week we read "Rugged Individualism" by David Davenport and Gordon Lloyd, and they talk about individualism and how it is a core value in American culture. My father has always done what he wants: "Individualism in business leads to greater creativity and innovation." (Davenport, 2017). While I don't know much about what he does, he has won many awards during his career, and all the colleges I meet have said nothing but great things about him. My dad has exhibited the value of justice through his unwavering commitment to treating all employees fairly and equitably. My father works with people from all over the globe, from Canada to Japan. He meets and talks with so many unique people. Regardless of their background, race, gender, or other characteristics, he always ensures that everyone is treated with respect and that their voices are heard. This

reminds me of Week 4, where we learned about Equality of Opportunity and the ongoing battle for equality. My father is always a fair person, no matter who you are. It made me think of Martin Luther King's "I have a dream speech," where he talks about the future and how he dreams that his "four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character." (King, 1963). This is especially important in a field like IT, where diversity is often lacking and where it can be easy for certain groups to be marginalized.

Through his example, my dad has shown that it is possible to create a more inclusive and equitable workplace and that doing so is not only the right thing to do but also leads to better outcomes for everyone involved. This week we looked at an article on Santa Clara University's site, titled "When In Doubt—And There's Always Doubt—Be Your Best" about what makes an athlete great. The article asks many questions, with answers that aren't as simple as some might expect. "Those who become experts, such as coaches, recognize things others don't" (Cdaniel, 2018). My father has been managing a team of support specialists for over 15 years. He knows the ins and outs of what he does and understands things on a deeper level. My father's annual participation in the charity run for the Leukemia Lymphoma Society is another example of his commitment to making a positive difference in the world. This run is a testament to his connection to the cause, as he participates in memory of a dear friend who lost their battle with the disease a few years ago. Through his participation in this run, my dad has shown that he is committed to the values of justice and equality and to helping those in need. My dad has also been a strong advocate for the value of dissent, even in the face of opposition. When he sees something that he feels is unjust or needs to change, he is unafraid to speak out and make his voice heard. Through his willingness to dissent, my dad has helped to bring important issues to the forefront and has inspired others to do the same. This week we look at a clip from the 2002 Spider-Man movie, where Spider-Man is faced with a choice, a classic situation of save one or many. In the clip, we see Spider-Man chose to save both, and through his good

reputation of saving others, the people on the bridge decide to help Spider-Man as well. This clip connected with me and how I feel about my father. He is persistent and would never give up when faced with a difficult situation. Similarly, with all the good relationships he has built over the years, he has helped me in many ways.

In conclusion, my dad is a true embodiment of the values of engaged citizenship. His tireless commitment to justice, dissent, and equality, combined with his selflessness and dedication to making a difference in the world through his participation in the charity run for the Leukemia Lymphoma Society, make him a truly deserving candidate for the Engaged Citizenship Hall of Fame. By recognizing his contributions, we can inspire others to follow in his footsteps and make the world a better place for us all.

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