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Open-mindedness = Growth

One way you could tell that you have grown as a person is through your newfound ability of listening to someone else express their opinion without the need to attack it just because it goes against yours. The true treasure lies in the art of listening, and understanding, no matter how different someone’s thinking is from yours. This does not mean you need to agree with them or tell them they are right – this means that you must accept that there will always be different perspectives on the same matter. Being open-minded is one of the many signs of one’s growth as a person and is an important characteristic one must learn of. As I was growing up, I was always around individuals who regarded their beliefs as something close to facts – now, I am not saying this makes them bad people – just that they were certainly far from open-minded and my time around them resulted in me adopting the same behavior. The behavior of being so passionate about my opinion to the point of not even bothering to hear anyone else’s if it was not like mine. Over time, I found that there was always going to be needless frustration with being so close-minded. Everyone is different, they were shaped by different experiences that led them to form different opinions. All these different opinions are something I am going to encounter throughout my life and I knew that if I did not learn how to be open-minded about them, I was going to miss out on something that could possibly make me a better person. It could make me a better person by helping me see why other people have their opinions on certain topics – what factors make them believe what they believe and in fact, these factors could be something I failed to consider while forming my opinion. I found that the willingness to hear and share new ideas and opinions allowed me to work with different personalities, which in turn, made for a great group dynamic. The thing about being open-minded, I found, was it goes beyond hearing other ideas and learning from them, even if that is the basis of what it means. It was a preview of adulthood, where more experience and knowledge leads to a very strong opinion on a variety of things. At this stage in life where people have learned a lot, I imagine there to be less sugarcoating, or less fear to be straightforward with one’s opinion. This is where open-mindedness becomes crucial, as in a situation where it is very likely for tension to set in, open-mindedness could instead make for a productive discussion that benefits all parties involved in the conversation. Learning comes with open-mindedness, interest and passion for more subjects come with open-mindedness, and so does flexibility – the ability to adapt. Becoming more open-minded with the opinions and ideas of others will not only teach you a lot different topics, but about yourself as well. Open-mindedness is one of the keys to personal growth and will certainly remain beneficial and invaluable over a long period of time.