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Should everyone get a trophy essay

Should Everyone Get a Trophy? This is an interesting question in today's society given there are varying opinions depending on generation and different ways of thinking. It is my opinion that trophies should not be handed out freely and that the decision to give an individual a trophy should be based on accomplishment. My opinion is based mostly on my upbringing, however, as I get older and more involved in different activities, such as sports, I've realized that receiving a trophy is a way of being acknowledged for standing out. I also believe that receiving a trophy is a reward for hard work, and it provides an incentive to everyone to push themselves to be better. There are many other reasons that lead me to this opinion, and I will attempt to explain a few of them in this paper. Trophies are a symbol of achievement, for example, when an individual decides to participate on a team there is an expectation that the individual will do just that - participate. By the end of the season, the team as a whole may be recognized for a successful season, however, if one person went above and beyond the expectations of the team by outscoring the others by a significant amount, or perhaps this individual stood out for other reasons, I believe it is appropriate to recognize this individual for his or her extra effort. By doing this, it provides a means of rewarding them for not only showing up, but for showing up and excelling. Instead of the other teammates feeling left out, I believe the majority of them may feel motivated to work harder in order to obtain that trophy next time. If anyone feels badly about not receiving a trophy, perhaps it's up to them to think about the reasons behind not being the recipient. Feeling bad about something like this is not always a negative thing. I believe this could be seen as a motivator for some people. It should be perceived as something to work for. In my opinion, receiving a trophy is a reflection of an individual's performance, and one could argue that not acknowledging an individual for their extra effort is unfair. We should all strive for the trophy instead of expecting it because in a world where everyone receives a trophy, we may see a decrease in effort by high achievers. Over the last couple of years, I've heard different (Older) people, such as my parents, grandparents, and people in the news debate this topic. I've learned that a certain group of people seem to feel very strongly that everyone should receive a trophy in an effort to be inclusive. This seems to be the popular way of thinking by the newer generation, known as the "Millennials". I believe that if you work hard you will be rewarded and I think that there are many life lessons that can be learned from this topic. Teaching young children that they should be rewarded, for not necessarily excelling may be setting them up for disappointment later in life. Life isn't always fair, and to expect something for nothing may lead to things such as lack of motivation, lack of productivity, and a disadvantage when competing for jobs. In conclusion, this is a topic that is widely discussed and debated by people with different opinions. I believe it's an important subject that can have lasting effects on my generation. Some people argue that children may develop a sense of low self-esteem if they are not rewarded for simply participating. During different times in our lives, we will encounter situations where we may or may not be recognized for our efforts, it is my hope that we focus on personal goals and accomplishments that we are proud of. We should always try to do our best regardless of the potential reward at the end. Submitted: May 04, 2017 © Copyright 2022 StanleyKensic. All rights reserved. They, too, may give up." Kids that excel on their teams should receive rewards, whether its a trophy or verbal recognition, anything will help give proper motivation. Extra work should receive extra recognition. It's not motivating to work hard, to be the best, only to have everyone get the same award. According to Lauren Tarshis in the article, "Should everyone get a trophy?" she states, "Trophies are not an effective way for coaches to motivate players. Receiving a pat on the back, a thumbs up from the coach, any show of appreciation is what keeps kids coming back." Honest feedback from a coach can be more impactful than a generic trophy.... Your child has just lost his game, showing him that he must improve. But not long after, his coach gives him a trophy, sending him the terribly wrong message that he doesn't need to improve. Alternatively, someone else's kid has won, but the trophy that is presented to them has little to no value due to the fact that everyone who's lost has gotten a trophy anyway. This is the case nowadays as most kids sports programs waste around 12% of their budget on removing everyone's motivation to improve, and the satisfaction of earning a trophy. The idea of giving every kid a trophy when they've done little to earn it is that it tells them that they do not need improvement, but isn't improvement something that we need to encourage? Ashley Merryman briefly talks about this idea in her article, Losing Is Good for You, it states, "If children know they will automatically get an award, what is the impetus for improvement? Why bother learning problem-solving skills, when there are never obstacles to begin with?" This explains how irrational it is to give every kid trophies for mere participation, and even losing! Merryman also adds, "Awards can be powerful...show more content...Most of them like to point out that it makes kids happy, as stated in the article Should Everyone Get a Trophy by Lauren Tarshis, "He says that getting trophies has made him feel good about being on his teams." That was said by a boy named Lucas, who was talking about how he gets trophies extremely effortlessly. So yes, it is true that trophies make some kids happy for a while, but that would only be looking at the short-term effects of getting unearned trophies. The long-term effects include lack of determination to improve, upsetting the kids that put actual effort into earning the trophies, and the tremendously large cost of the trophies themselves. So after all, the short-term effects aren't really worth the long-term. We live in a very politically correct world. We as a society have come to believe that everybody should feel good at all times, and no one should be left out. We start with the youth and the "everybody gets a trophy" mentality. Sure, it makes you feel great to get rewarded for doing something great but after having a horrible season, a trophy just seems to add insult to injury. Now I'm not talking about the 6 year olds who come on to the field and give it their all for the fun of just playing a sport (score should not even be kept at this age, just let the little players find out if they even like the game), but when 13 and 14 year olds expect a trophy for showing up, I draw the line and I believe rightfully so. What are we teaching our kids? That no matter if they win or lose in life they should be given a reward? That the ones who barely show up for practice, give half-hearted effort on the field and show no passion for whatever game they are playing should get a prize? I think not. This kind of entitled attitude not only leads kids to expect a reward for any effort given but also diminishes the concept and prestige of even receiving a trophy. Even in our schools the tide has turned. Once upon a time in a kingdom far far away, letterman's jackets use to be the envy and desire of every upcoming freshman athlete. Just to smell the leather (or cloth when they were sweaters) as you slipped on the jacket with your school's letter on it... grand memories. These jackets were reserved for the best of the best. Now, however, it is not only acceptable but demanded that theatre and band members get letters for their efforts. I remember being shocked when I learned that some of my friends "lettered" in drama. I call a technical, red card and time in the penalty box. I am not here to debate or belittle the effort and talent it takes to succeed in these other areas. It is very hard work to learn to play an instrument or to take on an emotional character, and I applaud the ones that do. However, Kobe Bryant doesn't get a Grammy or an Oscar for having a 50-point game. Marlon Brando was never voted MVP of any sporting league because he played Stanley Kowalski particularly well. If we do not do this in adult life, why give kids a false impression of this in their schools? The point is that when we give a reward for little to no effort or to every team that participates, we set kids up for failure. We give them the idea that it is OK to "just show up," give just enough effort and that at the end of the day "everybody wins." On the other hand, I understand how heart breaking it is to see a team try its best all season only to end up in last place. I have been there. When this particular team was asked by one parent about trophies, they declined them. They understood the value of a trophy and that they, even though they worked very hard, did not earn one. Competition is life. The jobs that we have, I am sure that many others applied to have the same position as we are now holding. Not everyone gets the job. Healthy competition and a desire to be the best for a certain reward or job are beneficial in life. The old saying "No points for second place" is true as is Vince Lombardi's famous statement "If it doesn't matter who wins or loses then why do they keep score." We cannot have it both ways. We cannot expect to give away awards to everyone who plays and then expect kids to understand when they grow up that going dancing after losing the Super Bowl is not OK. On the other side, to just give away awards meant for sports to anyone who works hard is to diminish the value of the award. Just because I work hard to be a good soccer coach does not mean that I should be considered for first chair in an orchestra. Hard work and dedication to ones profession or hobby should be rewarded but not with another areas valued awards. Otherwise, a future Bobby Fischer could become the next Heisman Trophy winner.

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