

TX-20065

Waller High School

Sons of the American Revolution Essay

21 January 2024

*How JROTC has prepared me to be a better citizen of the United States of America*

### AFJROTC's Positive Influence

The Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFJROTC) has had a highly positive influence on me and has specifically encouraged me to become a better citizen of the United States of America for these last three years. Of the many qualities that it takes to be a good citizen, being a law abiding individual, staying up to date on public affairs, and having a sense of patriotism are some of the most important attributes that have been instilled in me.

Being a law-abiding citizen has been heavily encouraged inside of my AFJROTC unit on a regular basis. Before every school trip our instructors remind us that "We Are Waller", meaning everything we do reflects on not just ourselves, but our community as a whole. I have found it to be especially important that our Aerospace Instructors always give talks about how important it is to stay safe during extended holiday breaks, and give examples from when they were in high school, the mistakes made, and most importantly, the consequences. Now that I've started to drive myself to school I feel the need to drive in accordance with all traffic regulations, thanks to the influence from my unit.

AFJROTC has also encouraged me to stay informed about the many events that are going on in the world around me. When Russia invaded Ukraine in early 2022, it was heavily encouraged by my instructors to do our own research on what was happening and to form our own opinion based on that research, and because of keeping myself informed, I've also been able to inform others. I have also been encouraged to stay informed on new people being placed into positions of power. My instructors have always been fast to inform us on new individuals who have been elected into government positions or have been given important positions in the military; however, they also let us know how important it is to keep an eye out for information on our own and regardless of opinions we may form, respect is always given to those above us. It is crucial to stay up to date on current events and military/government leaders, because only then are we able to understand fact from fiction.

What I find to be equally important is that I have been prepared to be a better United States citizen by instilling a better sense of patriotism in me. The many classes that are taught over American history have made me see America through lenses that many of my peers will miss out on. Through these classes, I have learned about the sacrifices many Americans made during both World Wars, which has really instilled respect for families and individuals who I will never know. As I look around my community and country, I can now also appreciate those who are willing to sacrifice themselves going forward. Truth be told, I have found a camaraderie amongst my other unit members; knowing that we are on a path very different than most, and an unmentionable respect is given when we know our hearts and minds are in a shared space. I will be forever grateful that our sense of patriotism can bring so many of us together.

Being a good patriot, staying informed, following the laws are crucial attributes to being an outstanding American citizen. AFJROTC has been heavily involved in developing all three attributes in my life and the lives of others. I owe it to my instructors for taking the time to help all of our unit develop as a better citizen for the United States of America.

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