

Winning Videos – Character and Ethics Film Festival 2014

Elementary

Elementary – 3rd Place

**“Caring Shows Good Character” – Los Penasquitos Elementary, Marissa Ochoa,
Teacher, 3rd Grade
Students: 24 students in 4th and 5th grade**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1GXVmqKN3BE>

Three days a week, twenty-four Los Pen students spent an extra hour after school to practice their English language skills. Since the majority of students are English Language Learners, they focused on caring and brainstormed ideas about how to portray it. The exclusion of other students kept coming up and resulted in this video. Los Pen students are proud to say that last week a new 5th grade student who spoke very little English arrived, and was invited to join a group of students. This video demonstrates how life really does imitate art!

Elementary – 2nd Place

“The Six Character Traits” – Adobe Bluffs Elementary School, Havena Marks, Teacher, 2nd Grade

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= QWTwMZmcQk>

After the class received 5 iPad minis from Donors Choose at the end of January, five different student groups created their project-based movies in 5 weeks. Making these “Documovie” shorts really pulled everyone together by learning how to collaborate and get along. Students and their teacher state, “We found out that it was not that easy! Making this movie taught us how to work as a team to get a task done.” Collaborating about Bullying incidences was an eye opener. All the incidences in the movies are real and have happened to students or older siblings and friends.

Each group’s movie was created entirely on the iPad mini (storyboarding, scripting, filming, editing, etc.) by the students. Although students found out that the editing process of movie-making was very hard, it was so much fun, and they could not wait to go to school and work on their videos! They explain, “The editing process of movie-making is similar to the writing process but only it was a lot more fun!” Enjoy the video, a representative of the five Documovies!

Elementary – 1st Place

“The Character Counts Heroes” – Willow Grove Elementary School and students in two classrooms:

- Lori Edelstein, 3rd grade teacher
- Tjeresa Abueg, 2nd grade teacher

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cLR6PnCMm0U>

This movie was made by three third-grade students. They wanted to honor people of character. When the script was finished, the two classes teamed up to make this movie a reality. Students worked as actors, directors, photographers, set designers, and film editors.

The students enjoyed the experience of being on both sides of the Camera. These students believe that anyone who shows good character is an everyday hero.

Middle School

Middle School – 3rd Place

“Be a Better Person” – Meadowbrook Middle School – Joe Ismay, Teacher

Students: Alfernie Fabricate, Lindsay Pratel, Sean Welch, Ryan Saggese, and Mikenna Rodrigues.

This video was a group effort with a combination of many student ideas. A lot of teamwork was involved in the making of this video, and students say, “It was challenging from the start!” Not wanting to settle for their original video shots, perseverance led them to a video that met their goals. The team is very proud of their accomplishments.

Middle School – 2nd Place

“Kindness, Pass It On”– Meadowbrook Middle School, Joe Ismay, Teacher

Students: Jessica Jensen, Catherine Johnson, Zach Orr, Sierra Stock, and Jake Lofgen.

This video was fun to make because it taught people that having and showing good character affects people in positive ways. The biggest struggle was the need to re-film because of wind noise and spending the time to create a good storyboard with everyone’s ideas. Overall this was a fun experience for everyone in the group.

Middle School – 1st Place

“Make a Difference”– Twin Peaks, Patrick Fawcett, teacher

Student: Drake Gibbs

<http://vimeo.com/84144323>

“Make a Difference” shows how people can help in a time of need. Drake used animation to make this video come to life.

High School

High School – Honorable Mention

“Cosmopolitan Effect” – Poway High, Robert Kaechele, Teacher, 5th grade

Students: Joanne Ducot and Torre Brown

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hZ9_S4wyWp0

Due to very close scores, we have an honorable mention for high school.

"The Cosmopolitan Effect is based on the perception of what society sees as beautiful, such as a skinny figure and flawless skin. An unrealistic standard of beauty resulted in the creation of

“The Cosmopolitan Effect.” The idea was inspired by the controversy regarding body image and how so many people, not just teenage girls, have low-esteems due to his or her body image. The purpose of the PSA is to bring awareness to the fact that everyone is different and beautiful in their own unique way.

High School – 3rd Place

“Ditch the Label” – Poway High School, Robert Kaechele, teacher
Students: Jack Chintala and Jackie Foster

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mix1ZPhBMY>

In collaboration with the Peer Counseling group, Jack and Jackie decided to address the issue of stereotyping, and how individuals make assumptions about others’ lives. This message shows that no matter how different we are, where we come from, or what we've experienced, we all deserve the same amount of respect. Jack and Jackie extend a big thanks to the wonderful help from Peer Counselors who take the time out of their day to be a mentor and counselor for students on campus who are afraid to come to adults with major issues.

High School – 2nd Place

“Don’t Drink and Drive” – Poway High, Robert Kaechele, teacher
Student: Neha Upadhyaya

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXyTQEaMm68>

The concept for Neha’s public service announcement came to her when she realized that her life could have been completely different if she had made poor choices. She shows how every decision is an important one and emphasizes the difference between the results of a bad decision versus the results of a good one.

Neha shares...“One of the challenges I faced in filming was to work around everyone’s schedules. An additional challenge was the rain which poured on the day I planned to film the driving scene. The rewards of making this film include learning everything from setting up a tripod to using special editing techniques for a more professional result, thanks to my teacher and Google. The most priceless reward is that people will watch this film, and I hope that they take something from it.”

High School - 1st Place

“Responsibility” – Rancho Bernardo, Ross Kallen, teacher
Student: Stephanie Parr

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ldouZ1uRYf8>

Examples of being responsible and being less responsible are shown throughout the video, with the help of twin brothers. As you will see, each situation results in a natural consequence.