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Yes, We Can

Hope is one of the most puzzling emotions of the human experience. Unlike fear, anger, or happiness, it can be present at almost any time, with no reasoning or motivation behind it at all. But that is what makes hope so powerful. It can persist through the darkest of times, and uplift individuals in even the most desperate of situations. When everything else seems lost, hope is a beacon that inspires people to get back up and keep fighting. Now more than ever, hope is guiding the world in the right direction, and motivating individuals to do their best to make the world a better place in the future.

Yes, we can persist in the face of new challenges.

When I was in eighth grade, I felt like I was on the top of the world. I had lots of friends, I was involved in tons of extracurricular activities, and I had no fear of what challenges high school might throw at me. Everything was going so well that it came as quite the surprise when all of it ended due to COVID-19. Suddenly, I was trapped in my house, isolated from almost everyone I knew and loved, and unsure of what the future would bring. As days stretched on, I felt overwhelmed by grief, despair, and worry as I wondered if my life, and the world as a whole, would recover from this tragic event. Throughout this instability and chaos, the one thing that kept me going was hope. It was hope that inspired me to keep doing the things that made me happy and commit more time to my hobbies. It was hope that helped me look on the bright side and realize how grateful I was to spend even more time with my family. It was hope that motivated me to get out of bed each morning and take on the new day, even when it seemed a daunting task. Even in the face of adversity, hope alone always prevails.

Yes, we can make the world welcoming to everyone.

During the first few decades of the United States’ inception, the rights of most Americans were extremely limited. In the election that named George Washington as the first president, an overwhelming majority of people living in America were unable to vote. Since then, countless legislation has been passed not only to allow people of different genders, races, and ethnicities to vote, but to ensure that their rights are protected by the Constitution. Without the continuous efforts of suffragettes such as Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, women would have had much more difficulty attaining the right to vote. Fredrick Douglass and later Martin Luther King, Jr. would fight injustice through their actions and words in order to gain freedom and equality for African Americans. Throughout history, hope has inspired thousands of people to continue advocating for liberty and justice, regardless of efforts by those in power to suppress them. This hope continues to this day, whether it be the Black Lives Matter movement taking a stand against police brutality and systemic racism or the LGBTQIA+ pride movement working to include people of all genders, sexual identity, or sexual orientation. With efforts such as these to promote inclusion and equality for everyone, it is undeniable that hope has been a key factor in creating a society where all people feel accepted.

Yes, we can make the world better for future generations.

Scientists often discuss the existence of a “tipping point,” or the concept that at some point in the future, climate change will be irreversible; in other words, it is only a matter of time until the environment is doomed. While it would be far easier to accept this fate and give up trying to save the planet, many people have taken great strides to do whatever they can to combat climate change. Despite steadily rising sea levels and temperatures, there have been efforts around the globe to construct barriers along coastlines to protect communities close to the ocean. Many scientists have also assisted farmers in determining what crops will grow best regardless of erratic climate patterns. Furthermore, experts believe that the economy will reach a “social tipping point,” at which prices for renewable energy such as solar or hydroelectric power will become more affordable than fossil fuels in the near future. Evidently, hope is still present in our global society, as otherwise there would likely be little to no attempts to combat or reverse climate change. It motivates us to work together as one people regardless of nationality or identity and improve the world for generations to come. Even in the face of challenges that seem impossible to triumph over on a global scale, hope inspires the entire world to make change.

Yes, we can.

Whether it be personal challenges that force us to persevere in difficult times, societal issues that feel as though they will never be resolved, or problems that affect society on a global scale, hope has guided people even when everything seems bleak. Hope is not just a feeling; it is an idea, the belief that one day, things will turn out better for everyone. Its unwavering support has helped individuals, and the world as a whole, conquer any challenge they have faced. No matter what happens, or what the future may bring, it is undeniable that there will always be hope.

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