

## IDRA Coca-Cola Valued Youth Program – 2016 Essay Contest Elementary School First Place



**Abdul Abdulai**

5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

PS94 KINGS COLLEGE SCHOOL, NEW YORK CITY

Tutoring has helped me in a lot of ways. Tutoring has helped me teach younger kids and realize the importance of doing so. I made a type of bond with my tutees, and they love me. I always have to behave in order to meet my tutees. If I don't behave, I will be suspended. Being suspended not only affects me but it affects my tutees as well. If I don't show up to tutor them they will fall back in their progress.

The Coca-Cola Valued Youth Program has helped me get a job. The program has also helped me gain experience in how to perform on a real job at such a young age. Most kids my age don't usually get to experience how a job is like until they are older. Thanks to the Coca-Cola VYP, when I grow up I will know what it's like to work a job. The program has helped me be the best that I can be.

I love this program because it has helped me achieve in ways I thought would be impossible. Just the fact that I know I help younger kids achieve in a positive way makes me feel good about myself. I would love

to see this program in all schools in NYC. It would make a world of difference in the lives of many children.

Another way this program has helped me is my life used to be very boring. Now that I am a part of the Coca-Cola VYP

Program, I am not bored any more. It has bought excitement into my life.

My attendance has improved. I now have perfect attendance because I don't want to miss any days of school. Thanks to Ms. Dash and the administration they have made me into a very successful kid. I have started doing my homework and classwork all the time. I am truly thankful for this opportunity and will always remember it. I feel grateful to share my feelings about this opportunity of a lifetime.



## IDRA Coca-Cola Valued Youth Program – 2016 Essay Contest Elementary School Second Place



**Brian Martínez**

5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

PS94 KINGS COLLEGE SCHOOL, NEW YORK CITY

I love working in the Coca-Cola Valued Youth Program. I love my tutees very, very much. They are cute and awesome. This program has helped me a lot. My behavior has changed, and that is good.

I plan on saving my money for college. College will help me prepare for a good future. As I tutor the kindergarten students, I look toward my future.

I have a tutee named Joey, and he misbehaves. He used to get many, many write ups about his behavior. Now I started helping him, and he does his work all the time. I sometimes can't believe what I have done. Every day I look in the mirror and tell myself: "Yesterday was yesterday, and today is a better day. Work now and, sometime in the future, it will pay you back." I would love to continue working in the Coca-Cola Valued Youth Program because it makes me happy to help others.

Tutoring has changed my life. I used to be in trouble all the time. I used to be disrespectful and mean. Something I learned was when I saw my tutees changed their behavior, I knew I needed to change mine. I didn't want them to copy my bad behavior. So I started behaving good, and my tutees changed their behavior. Now I'm one the best students in my class. I felt like the most important person in the school and in the world.

Making kids happy means the world to me. Today I am who I am because of the Coca-Cola Valued Youth Program.



*\*name changed for privacy*

## IDRA Coca-Cola Valued Youth Program – 2016 Essay Contest Elementary School Third Place



**Skylah Nix**

5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

PS94 KINGS COLLEGE SCHOOL, NEW YORK CITY

Being in the Coca-Cola VYP Program means so much to me. I feel like a teacher teaching kindergarteners who struggle with their work. It's more like saving the day. I also learn from Ms. Dash. She teaches us what we need to teach our tutees. She also teaches us how to prepare for the future. On Tuesdays, we all meet in the library and discuss the program. We also work in our workbooks. Guest speakers come and give us prep talks about college and our future.

Because of this program, I want to be a teacher when I grow up. I can help my little brother with his homework and teach him ways to solve problems. The Coca-Cola Valued Youth Program has changed my life by helping me not be so mean. I stay calm and take a few minutes to calm myself down now instead of going out of control.

I found out that this is my opportunity to show people what's inside of me that I haven't unlocked yet. Just to see my tutee learning makes me feel like I just did something special. Now my tutees are getting smarter. They are still struggling a little but they are doing a good job. This make me feel amazing.

Before being apart of the Coca-Cola Valued Youth Program, I used to be a huge troublemaker. Now all of that has changed!!!!

