



Ashley Hundley's Essay

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Who's my hero in the community and Why?:

My community hero would have to be Nipher's School Resource Officer, Officer Bonner. I met Officer Bonner my first week at North Middle in the 6th grade over a few compliments and laughs in the early morning. She soon became a mentor to me. I would make appointments to talk to her every Wednesday to listen to stories she would tell about her job. As the year progressed, my grades began to slip as hanging out with friends and fitting in was more important than passing a math test. Officer Bonner was told by many of my teachers that I was slacking in their classrooms and with disappointment Officer Bonner pulled me out of my gym class to talk to me about it. She told me how upset she was at me that I was failing myself and how I have to work hard to be successful. After her lecturing, she asked me what I wanted to be when I grow up. Puzzled, I gave no response. I never gave the question much thought at the time because of people constantly telling me how much time I had to think about it. "College is so far away. I got time," I kept telling myself as years flew by. After a while of silence, she sent me back to class with the question dangling over my head. I was clueless of my future.

As 6th grade year was coming to an end, my grades began to rise with the help of many lectures from Officer Bonner and punishments from my parents. I also started to think about college and what I wanted to do in my life more. With 7th grade approaching, I came to the conclusion of wanting to become an officer. I found myself watching a lot of cop shows and reading about the law online in my free time. When I was informed by a couple of friends that Officer Bonner was being transferred to Nipher, I immediately made an appointment with her to talk to her about my future

plans that I had yet to tell her. Sadly the appointment never came about because of scheduling problems and without saying goodbye she was gone for the remainder of my middle school career.

After seeing Officer Bonner a few times in my high school career at Kirkwood High, we mostly share opinions on the cop violence in our society. She always tells me how African-Americans seem to be losing hope for our race and how as whole, we feel unsafe in our own community because we either die from another man who is wearing the same skin or a cop there to protect. We begin to enlighten each other for awhile, then we part ways as her words start to replay in my mind. If the world had more officers like Officer Bonner, then maybe African-Americans would still have hope of protection. Officer Bonner doesn't need to be in the field arresting crooks for her to be my hero. She steered me onto the right path to success and she never stopped believing in me. She gave kids hope that we could be the change that our parents are praying for. She made me want to be the change. She made me want to be a hero. She made me want to be just like her.