

Being trustworthy, having respect, responsibility, having fairness, caring about others and having citizenship, are the six pillars of character. If we remember to use them while making our daily decisions on how to act, they can help us make wise choices. But what do they really mean to me? At my elementary school we had to sing songs about each pillar. It was fun, but I could never really understand what they truly meant, and how to use the pillars in my everyday life. Once I understood each one more clearly, they began to influence my choices greatly. When I was faced with having to choose to stand up to my friend while she was making fun of someone, or join in with the bullying, I remembered the pillars. In this situation I decided to stand up for the girl who was not my friend. I had to remember to be respectful of both people by being fair and caring. I had to be trustworthy and show citizenship. While looking back on this problem, I realized that all six pillars influenced my choices. I am good friends with this person, but helping this young student on my bus was more important. Being called names, and having someone make fun of your physical features can really make you feel bad about yourself. It's better that I was caring and fair, than a part in this bullying. When standing up to someone, it isn't always easy, but having the pillars of character to support my actions, make it easier to do the right thing. There was really no one pillar that stood out or influenced me most. I saw that if I really wanted to stop this bullying, I couldn't bully my friend for being mean, or I would be just as bad as her. You can't use one pillar without the others. They are all a package deal. So while I was thinking about them, I realized they all played a very important role in influencing my decision. All six pillars of character influence my choices. The definition of the word pillar means to be a free standing support. The six pillars of character give me the support I need for making the right choices.