

The Pillar of Character I value the most is Caring. I value it because without it, people lose their social skills. Without kindness, people are mean, without compassion, people are indifferent, and without empathy, people are apathetic. When someone is mean, indifferent, and apathetic, they can be bullies.

*Kindness* I think that kindness is the first step to be caring, because when a person isn't kind, they cannot be compassionate or empathetic. I know that it can be hard to be kind. Sometimes, I have to work with people I do not like, and sometimes, I almost say something unkind to them. I catch myself, and think. Would I want people to say these things to me? Is this really a comment I should be saying? I know it's hard to stop from saying mean comments to people I dislike, but it's important to. Kindness can be rather hard to carry out, especially when with people that are not always the ideal partner.

*Compassion* I feel that compassion is the next step for becoming a caring person. Compassion comes in handy when someone is suffering from a lost pet, family member, or if they lose a friend. For example, I recently lost my grandmother. When I told my friend, she said she was sorry, and that she hoped that I would feel better. This is compassion because my friend is comforting me, and helping me through the hard time, even if she didn't know my grandmother.

*Empathy* The last step to caring is empathy. I feel that it's really important to be empathetic because things can happen that make people feel alone. With empathy, people understand what is happening to each other. For example, I was bullied a little in the beginning of seventh grade. I felt a little bit alone because I thought that I was the only one. However, my friend said that *she* had been bullied, too. I felt better because I wasn't the only one.

Caring is the most important Pillar to me because when people demonstrate it, they make everyone feel happy and caring themselves.