EXAMPLE PERSUASIVE THEME WITH EXAMPLES

Prompt: Choose a saying that is familiar to you and write a Persuasive Theme to persuade your reader that the saying has merit. Include example stories from your life or from the lives of others around you to support your claim. Include at least five paragraphs in your theme. Use the APA style.

TITLE OF PAPER: Pay It Forward!
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Jean B. Schumaker

Central High School

Mrs. Whipple

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Pay It Forward!

"Pay it forward" is a saying that means "Help others without worrying about ever getting paid back." The saying became famous when it was the title of a movie. The movie was about a boy who decided that he would "Pay it forward" and ask each person whom he helped also to "Pay it forward" by helping someone else instead of returning a favor to him. The story shows what happens to him and to each person whom he helped and who helped others. Basically, as more and more people helped others, a special feeling of good will spread. The people in the movie learned that helping others produced good results for the person helped, good results for the community, and good results for the helper. Truth be told, that also happens in real life; helping others results in a lot of benefits for everyone.

Obviously, helping others without thoughts of personal payoffs can produce good results for the person being helped. For example, recently in our town a woman had a horrible car accident. A young Army veteran stopped his car to help her; he knew just what to do because of his Army training. He told her not to move and held her neck still until help arrived. Days later, doctors told her that if she had not kept still, she would have become paralyzed from the neck down. Today, she is living a normal life with her children and husband. Thus, the Army veteran helped someone who can now live a normal life as a result of his generous gift of his time and knowledge.

Moreover, "Paying it forward" can also result in benefits for the community. An example of a way that helping others can benefit the community is Habitat for Humanity. Habitat for Humanity is an organization where volunteers build houses for others. Businesses provide free building materials, and people give their time and talents to put all of the pieces of homes together. In this way, new homes are built in the community, making

the community look good. Also, families who cannot afford to buy homes are able to have a home of their own. As a result, people who have been homeless can live in attractive homes built by their community neighbors. Whole neighborhoods of homes have been built in this way, creating stronger communities.

Finally, "Paying it forward" can result in good feelings for the helper. In a recent accident in our school parking lot, the jack under a car fell over, pinning a boy beneath the car. Several boys ran to help. Without a moment's hesitation, they lifted the car off of the boy and stayed with him until the ambulance arrived. They left the scene, not waiting around to be interviewed or congratulated. When asked about the incident, one of the boys said, "We just did what was the right thing to do. We all feel terrific that we were able to help someone. I'll remember this feeling the rest of my life."

In sum, helping others without worrying about payoffs in return can result in several types of benefits. Because the benefits can be dramatic, people should look for any situation where they can help others. They should look for situations where people are struggling and cannot help themselves. They should look for opportunities to turn a bad situation around. Typically, in such situations, just a few minutes of lending a helping hand can make a positive difference in another person's day or even that person's whole life. If everyone keeps making a positive difference, the world becomes a better place to be, and life becomes a better experience for all. "Paying it forward" can indeed change the life of the person being helped, the community, AND the helper!