

125th High School Essay Contest

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There are 2 counties on Long Island, 62 in NY, and 3,143 in the US. There are surely more counties than I can count on their hands, yet not a single one of those is like Nassau County. Maybe people might know Nassau County for being the second most populated county in NY, maybe for carrying the history of so many rich things like aviation feats and our beaches, but when you look past that you find what really matters. The people.

I've had the privilege of living and growing up in Nassau County for 17 years, and never once wished it be any different. It may have been the Jones beach trip with my friends and family when I was younger, maybe joining my local cub scout and boy scout troop. Maybe it was growing up in a family of small business owners, or being 30 minutes away from New York City. It could also be joining as a junior firefighter at 15, becoming a lieutenant, then leaving to join the firehouse as a full member. There is no right answer to what made my life here so enjoyable, rather a small part of everything attributing to what my life has become.

I worked my first job here. Then my second, and my third. As I grew up and joined the workforce, I noticed things that I never really noticed otherwise. Things like the sun's amber light melting into the sky while I come home from my shift, or the fact that you can look forward to seeing your family at your job, whether they are your coworkers or just regulars coming in for a Sunday brunch. Knowing I was able to save up and open my first debit card in my name because I worked with some of the kindest people I have ever known was a good feeling.

I personally believe that it doesn't matter where you go to school here in Nassau County, because there is something for everyone. I remember running to the swingset at recess, and playing tag with my friends in elementary school, not realizing how blessed I am to be able to look back on such positive experiences like that as a child. I never truly understood how safe I was here until Covid hit. There is no community like that of Nassau County, because even when people were pushed into a corner, everyone fought to stay safe and supported each other. Those bike rides in summer of the Covid years were some of the most memorable

moments of my life, and truly something I can never forget. Now being a senior in high school, we get to go to the mall, and drive home late at night, and feel safe because we've never had a reason not to.

If you were to ask me to tell you why Nassau County was such a good place to live, work and play 4 years ago, I would have said it's the best because I get to spend time with my friends, go to the street fair every year, and play with a frisbee at the highschool field. Going into college and almost starting my adult life, there is a part of me that belongs to the great place I grew up. Nassau County isn't a great place to live, work, and play. It's the best.