

## National Youth Safety Essay Scholarship Contest Winner

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How could one wallet size piece of paper save thousands of lives? This question can be easily answered. The OSHA ten hour card that certifies one person to be cautiously aware of all aspects in the workplace or anywhere else can have the ability to. From the start I was expected to complete the ten hour OSHA credential (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) for school to participate in my school's medical program, but now this is so much more. Working as a part time cashier at a grocery store looking for all warning signs of dangers is a must for me. Signs such as electrical cords left out, potential burns from open ovens, and even employee to customer conflict.

To begin with, OSHA has taught me if you start safe you can stay safe. This means that before participating in workplace activities prepare yourself for hazardous situations: hard hats being worn for construction, wearing sterile gloves when performing medical procedures, and even washing your hands after using restroom facilities. OSHA gives people a chance to be aware of all dangers in their environment for which they are in. OSHA has vastly increased my knowledge. Today I can classify fire types, recognize how stable surfaces are, and even what kind of uniform is appropriate for different tasks! Would you ignore a piece of paper next to an extension cord?

Moreover, OSHA has impacted my life by explaining how even the littlest of potential dangers should not be ignored. For example, if you are in a kitchen at work and you smell something strange do not think that it is coming from outside, but check to see if it is a gas leak. Each day someone is hurt on the job from hazardous, ignored work situations but OSHA standards have decreased the number of victims. One spill of water on the floor or an open circuit box could lead to a danger. Are we paying attention to the warning signs around us?

Continuing on, the OSHA ten hour card has benefited me because I can share my learning with others. The benefit of learning new things is to share that information with others. How many lives will be saved if the OSHA credential information was passed from person to person, like a wildfire in the forest? Throughout history this process has been done in the wonderful aspect of knowledge. Think about how many people would start safe and stay safe with an OSHA credential.

To emphasize, again I ask, how could one wallet sized piece of paper save thousands of lives? The OSHA ten hour card that credentials a person to be accurately aware of all hazardous situations physically and mentally in the surrounding environment can. Starting off, completing the OSHA ten hour credential was just a school assignment, but now it is so much more, it is one of the guides that I will use through my life. My name is Jessica Singleton, and it is proudly added to the OSHA ten hour credential list!