

National Youth Safety Essay Scholarship Contest Winner

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My OSHA certification card inspired me by making me realize how unsafe I had been before taking the course. It also gave me the courage to start a safety committee within my school. With that committee, we inspected the shop and realized the shop students were working in had a shortage of safety signs. The safety committee went into the shop and placed signs where they were needed.

I also now have an advantage over people who are in the real world. This certification card automatically puts me above those who do not. This will allow me to start my career easier and also shows them that I am aware of all the safety hazards and all the possible things that could happen out in the work area.

Before I took the OSHA course, I was not paying attention to all the hazards that could have seriously hurt me, or even killed me. I can now spot if someone is doing something wrong and help them by showing them the correct and safe way to do things. Now, when I am in the shop or in any working areas, I make sure to have safety first. The “caught in-between” hazards section explained to me how to either call for help or get out when stuck inside a hazard. What I really enjoyed about this program was that it is not like most programs that have long, boring passages you have to read to yourself. There is a narrator that will read the passages for you, making it easy to focus. This online OSHA program was interesting to me and kept me entertained. After reading a couple of passages and information, it then showed me a video over everything I just read. This video demonstration gave me a better understanding of the course material.

I included this point because this course really made me think about the other online training programs out there, and made me realize they are not all boring and depressing. This course had some very interesting videos of all the possible accidents that couple happen, and I like that it actually showed you the accident occurring. It not only taught me safety hazards, but allowed me to be familiar with real-world work sites. Now that I have seen some of those work sites in the videos, I can recognize them on the street as I am driving. It also taught me why safety signs are so important. Before this program, I would never pay attention to safety signs. There are safety signs all over my city that I would walk and drive by every single day. Signs that I would read and ignore because I never thought of that something going bad could lead to such a major injury. Now after being OSHA certified, I catch myself always looking for safety signs and reading them to make sure I am in no harm or to make sure I am aware of/prepared for what could happen. If I wasn't OSHA-certified, I would not have a clue on how to prepare myself or what to expect.

This program also boosted my confidence on searching for a job and talking to business owners. I feel as if the credential gives business owners more of an interest in me and show that I am dedicated, willing to work and finish the things I start. I know that a lot of oil companies require their workers to take an OSHA course and, with me having my credentials, it will save them time and money. This will give me a greater chance in getting to work for them.

These are all the ways OSHA has changed me and made me a better person by giving me great safety education. Thank you OSHA and CareerSafe!