



UK Dow Jones Workshop 2009

Profile of Ja'Leesa Holman

By: Jessica Borchers

Ja' Leesa D'Ann Holman is an optimistic, fashionable, 17-year-old girl. Not just your average high school student, who works just hard enough to pass the class, but an over achieving, intelligent and attentive student.

Although she had no experience with journalism she hopes to improve her writing ability, "especially in editorial writing."

She resides in Lexington, Ky. with her mother and father and her little sister Brianna, 13. She has many of the same interests as the average 17-year-old girl (shopping, music, and BOYS!!). However as a senior at Bryan Station High School, Ja'Leesa has pushed herself to be the best she can be.

"English comes naturally to me. Whenever fellow students are having difficulty in English they come to me first. However, just don't come to me for help in mathematics," she joked.

She is a part of the Spanish Immersion Program at her high school. She has participated and continually taken a Spanish class since the first grade and has been accepted into a higher level of Spanish education.

"After high school, I plan to go straight to college, to major in interior design and minor in Spanish. I must admit that have no idea where I will take that minor, but since I speak it fluently, and more and more people from Latin American countries are coming I figured why not do something with it. I will hopefully either be attending the University of Kentucky or Northern Kentucky University."

This is a girl who knows what she wants and is ready to meet the next challenge in order to do it all. People could learn a lot from Ja'Leesa.

First Amendment Essay
Ja'Leesa Holman

The First Amendment is one that allows us to express ourselves as individuals. It gives us the freedom to speak our mind without any repercussions and gives us the right to stand up for our morals and values. Why should students care about the First Amendment? As we continue to learn and grow we develop our own opinions about any and everything. Without the First Amendment, we wouldn't be able to express those opinions in any way. With growth comes curiosity and the need to explore. One of the focuses of the First Amendment is freedom of the press. This gives us the right to explore others and the world around us, allowing us to find the truth or the unknown behind people, places, and things.

As young, growing adults, students are constantly changing their minds. As we learn, our personalities alter. We begin making decisions for ourselves, and developing our own morals and values in life. Without the First Amendment we wouldn't be able to grow into unique individuals, because we would never be able to express ourselves or stand behind our beliefs. We would all be taught and forced by law to have the same morals and values and to believe in the same things. The First Amendment was established to allow us to be creative and develop our own position on the world around us.

The First Amendment includes the right to freedom of religion, speech, press, to petition the government and the right to assemble peaceably. Along with these rights are also some implied rights that we have gained as citizens to allow us to continue to grow and explore. Some of these implied rights include freedom of association, freedom to travel, freedom to participate in politics and many more. The First Amendment allows us to have a say in every aspect of our lives. It gives us permission to participate in our government, allowing us to make necessary laws and also set limits for ourselves.

We learn something new every day, which develops us into very opinionated people. The world is changing every day, and some of these changes impact some more than others and they can also be positive, and they can also be negative. The First Amendment gives us the right to express our thoughts on these changes. It gives us the opportunity for our voices to be heard. The First Amendment provides an outlet for students to share their thoughts, opinions, and experiences with the rest of the world.

Students should care about the First Amendment because it doesn't restrict us. It allows us to be free and project and express ourselves to others. It allows us to stay open-minded and embrace others. The First Amendment is also learning tool. It teaches us to respect other people's cultures and values, and it also helps us develop an awareness of different backgrounds. The First Amendment helps us to stand out and teach others and also learn from others. By everyone having their own opinion, being able to choose their own religion, and own ideas about things, it truly makes us all unique individuals.