

Who do you admire and why?



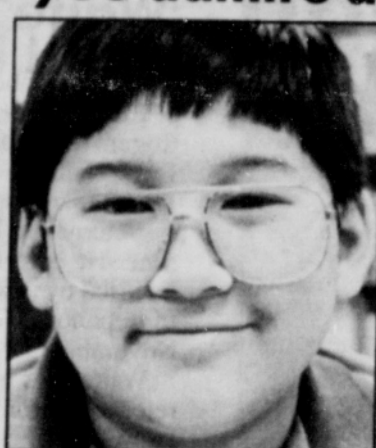
Hoa Nguyen, 10

I admire my mom and dad a lot because they brought us over here from Vietnam. My dad was an officer in the army and he had to work as a barber to help support our family because my mom was sick a lot. I'm proud that they haven't gotten divorced. They think about us and want us to have a good life. I can talk to them about my problems and if they can't answer my questions they make suggestions, or buy me books or go with me to the library. Mom and dad let me choose what I want to do and don't force me into anything. Everyone likes them; I want everyone to like me like they do mom and dad.



Madeline Turnock, 12

I admire Mrs. Callahan, my math teacher. She understands kids so well. She can control our class, which gets very rowdy sometimes. She's a good role model for us, and she makes the right decisions all the time. She always makes sure we understand everything we learn. She lets us give our opinions about things, too. When some people grow up and become adults they don't relate to kids. But that's something that Mrs. Callahan does really well. I like math, but I like it even more since I've had her as my math teacher.



Chad Pang, 11

I can't really say that I admire just one person. Most likely I admire everybody. I admire what they can do, and what they are doing for other people. I have to admire people for doing what they really want to do and like to do instead of doing what other people want them to do. Like if a movie star wants to be a movie star and is good at it and happy then that's okay. I like people who stand up for other people's rights, like Martin Luther King. I admire people who devote their lives to what's important to them. I always concentrate on what I want to do and know you have to be happy with yourself.



Steban Waller, 14

I really admired by grandmother. She died recently, and I miss her very much, but I thought she was real neat. My grandmother had you try your best at everything you do. She was my best friend. She did a lot of things, like run the Talented and Gifted program. Before she died I spent a lot of time with her, and she was fun to be with. My grades really improved — from Cs to As — when I spent time with her. She knew what was hot and wasn't old fashioned. I also admire Dr. Martin Luther King because he really showed blacks how to stand up for their rights. He was a good leader.



May Cheng, 15

I admire my mom. She can maintain a family and work at the same time. She keeps our family together and always has answers to our problems — she seems to know everything. My mom always has a lot of patience with me and my two brothers; she knows us real well. She has a really steady mind because she juggles so many things and doesn't drop them — like laundry, buying groceries, working and then coming home to brats. She does this everyday and does it really well. I use to model but my grades started dropping, and then I could really relate to how hard she works.



Cameron Carr, left, and Devon Carr write about who they admire most as dad looks on. Blazer forward Kenny Carr wants kids to write about who they admire in the Blazer/Avis Write-On Essay Competition.

BASIC asks who you admire

Bruce Willis, Walter Payton, Brooke Shields, and astronauts. These people make headlines every day because what they do is unique. We begin admiring some of them for what they do — being funny, setting football records, acting and modeling, and exploring space.

Do you ever think about who you admire the most and why? Maybe it's not someone famous. It may even be a relative, friend, or brother or sister.

For the third year, *Young American*, America's Newsmagazine for Kids, is joining the Portland Trail Blazers and Avia athletic footwear in BASIC's "Write On" program. We want you to join us by writing about the person you most admire and why in the "Write-On"

competition.

Kids, in grades one through 12, can enter. Last year more than 25,000 students wrote essays. Entry forms have been mailed to classroom teachers in Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas and Yamhill Counties in Oregon and Clark County, Washington.

The top three winners in each grade receive two free Blazer tickets, a locker room tour and a variety of prizes.

A "Student Top Ten" list of the people students write about will be compiled after the essays have been read. To vote for your most admired person enter your essay.

Ask your teacher for more information about how to enter.

Top-scoring Kiki passes answers onto readers

Trail Blazer star Kiki Vandeweghe is the sixth highest scorer in the NBA. And now that he's settled into the season, he is ready to answer letters from *Young American* readers in his column "Kiki's Korner."

Send your questions to Kiki, c/o Young American, P.O. Box 12409, Portland, OR 97212.



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America's Newsmagazine for Kids

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