

Arianna Brazell's Be Present S.C. Essay

To me, "Be Present S.C." is basically a reminder that half the battle in middle school is just showing up. It isn't just about getting a perfect attendance certificate at the end of the year; it's about making sure I don't miss out on the stuff that happens every day. Being present means I am actually there to learn, hang out with my friends, and keep my grades where they need to be.

Coming to school every day is important to me for three big reasons. First, catching up on missed work is the worst. For example, if I miss just one day of Math, I feel like I've missed an entire year. When I come back, I'm stuck trying to learn the old lesson while the teacher is already moving on to something new. Being there every day makes my life way less stressful because I don't have to spend my weekend doing "makeup" packets. Second, school is where all my social life happens. Most of my friends are in my classes, and we do a lot of group work. For instance, in Science, we do labs that require partners. If I'm not there, I'm letting my partner down, and I miss the chance to actually do the experiment myself. Working with other people helps me learn how to get along with different personalities, which is a pretty big part of growing up. Third, I really enjoy the hands-on activities and electives. You can't really do PE or Theater from your couch at home. Last week in Art, we started a new project with felt. If I had stayed home, I wouldn't have been able to use the supplies or get help from my teacher when I got stuck. School gives me a chance to do things I literally can't do anywhere else.

When I am absent, the thing I miss most is the "inside jokes" and the random fun moments. Even if it's just something funny that happened at the lunch table or a joke a teacher made during a lecture, missing out makes me feel "out of the loop." I hate coming back the next day and having my friends say, "You should have been there!" because it makes me feel like I missed a small part of a bigger story. In the end, showing up is a habit that I know will help me long after I leave middle school. School matters for my future because it helps me build the discipline and the knowledge I need to eventually reach my goals and get a job I actually enjoy.