

North West liberty academy 2016 essay contest
Tamen Whipple, age 16

"Right is right even when everyone is against it and wrong is wrong even if everyone is for it." — William Penn. This year's essay is focused on defining the word principle. Principle is a belief or rule that guides your life. During this essay I will be explaining more of the principle of "principle", and how this applies to our people in government.

Who is William Penn? William Penn is the founder of the colony of Virginia he helped create Virginia's constitution and many of the rights and privileges found in this constitution were used in the United States constitution. William Penn left us with, along with Virginia's constitution, many great quotations including the quote that I will be using in this paper. "Right is right even when everyone is against it and wrong is wrong even if everyone is for it." In our day we have many worldly problems. We have moral disagreements and many situations where people are doing what they believe to be right but have to stand against the world. To illustrate what I mean by this remark, there is a story. Owners of an Oregon bakery who denied service to a same-sex couple have paid more than \$135,000 in state-ordered damages for Laurel Bowman and Rachel Cryer. It started January 2013 when they came into the shop with her mother for a cake-tasting appointment. However, Aaron Klein told the women that the bakery didn't do cakes for same-sex weddings. The women filed complaints with the state and triggered the national debate over religious beliefs against anti-discrimination laws. Story found on foxnews.com. Standing for what they thought was right these bakers stood by their principles, even though it cost them \$135,000.

A principle is "a moral rule or belief that helps you know what is right and wrong and that influences your actions" -Miriam Webster dictionary. In our quote by William Penn, there is one major principle that stands out to me. That principle is, to choose the right even when the world says, "follow us, right and wrong don't matter." Right does matter and we need to stand for it. If everyone you knew told you that it's OK to murder because everyone else says it's OK, Would you kill someone? I wouldn't.

It's important for our politicians to have good principles, and to understand how to stand by their principles. We have politicians that claim to have good principles but most don't follow up with their commitment or possibly get sucked into the wrong is right and right is wrong mentality, that most politicians have.

Not only do we need these good leaders but we need to live this way as well or we don't deserve these leaders. It is time for all of us to stand up for what we believe in and defend our principles whatever they might be.

(15-18 yrs. category)