

Arthur Ashe Essay Contest 2016
Winner – USTA New England – girls 13 & 14

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In 350 words or less, answer the following question:

How have your skills in tennis impacted the development of your character and how you address your personal challenges on and off the court?

Tennis players and the game itself are inspirations not only to me but to others around the world as well, both on and off the court. People like Nadal, the Williams sisters, Djokovic, and many more all show the strength, courage, and character that all of us aspire to have. They have grown my tennis game and my persona from on and off the court and I wouldn't be the same person I am today without my skills in tennis. The game has taught me about individuality and at the same time about being a team. It has taught me about positive attitude and sportsmanship, and it has shown me perseverance.

Tennis at first may seem like an individualized sport, and that every man is for himself. Especially by playing on a high school tennis team, I have realized that you all work together to win each point and each match and every player is crucial, even if you play the last spot on the team. From this, I have learned to face challenges by looking at them from multiple points of view instead of just mine and taking others into consideration before acting by myself. Tennis has also helped to develop my character because, as in most sports, good sportsmanship is an important role during the game. This has taught me to be respectable to the people around me and has also affected my attitude. I am positive about the challenges I face and I have a very positive attitude about how I treat everything around me. Perseverance has also played a role on and off the court in my life. In the tennis game and off the court, it has shown me that I should never give up because even the biggest tennis stars have made great comebacks and I can too. They all have had setbacks and bad matches but they never give up.

I can owe my character and who I am today to my good tennis skills and the people that I have always looked up to.