

## Delaney Williams: 2nd Place

### What Does it Mean to be a Good American?

What does it mean to be a good American? Being a good American is comprised of many different things. Just as our country is unique, the qualities that make people good Americans are too. Good Americans are proud of our country, kind, accepting and appreciative of diversity, and are leaders with grit.

There are a lot of different qualities that make people good Americans in my opinion. One such important quality is being accepting of the diversity America has to offer. America is rich in diversity, with many cultures, religions, and ways of life, among other things. A person who is considered a good American will not only accept all cultures and diversity but also appreciate the differences of the people in their communities and country.

Another key quality to being a good American is being genuinely proud to be an American. That means taking pride in yourself, your community, and your country. When you take pride in your country, it makes your country stronger and more united.

While I'm sure there are many other qualities that contribute to a person being a "good American," there is one final attribute that I would like to touch on. The qualities that I think may be most important of all are that of leadership and grit. Many Americans think that they have an abundance of leadership and grit, however, only true, good Americans know that you have to work hard to *become* a leader and find grit. Good Americans also know that leadership and grit can change the world because if you work hard and inspire others to work hard as well, you can do great things for your community and country.

In conclusion, while I believe many different things can make a person a "good American," the three attributes that I mentioned are definitely some of the most important. Being kind, accepting, and appreciative of America's cultural diversity, taking pride in being an

American, and possessing the qualities of leadership and grit are, in my opinion, the best ways to truly be considered “a good American.” Are you up to the challenge?