

“Four-Way Test Essay”

“We live in a fantasy world, a world of illusion. The great task in life is to find reality.” In my life, in the south, I was raised to know and abide by the rules of basic southern life. The way that I was taught was the only thing that was exposed to me. Women do the chores, women cannot have opinions, women cannot go to college, women are only there for things that need to be done inside the house. And men on the other hand, go to work, get to go out, have political opinions, etc. From a young age this was pushed upon me, while my sister and I were cleaning my brother’s room, they would be playing with their yellow, blazing toy tractors. And since this was the only ideology I was bare to, I believed it was the only way. That is, until I arrived at my current school. I came to the realization that it is not okay to stereotype like that, and everybody should be allowed to have an opinion. From all the lies in my life, I defined the truth.

The four-way test first asks “Is it the truth?” It would seem that it is true, even if I was taught that it was not. Growing up, I assumed everything coming from my parent’s mouths were automatically true. I would believe them if they suggested the first letter of the alphabet was “P” or that unicorns are actually real. With that being said, I believed the poor ideologies they were teaching me. I not only believed it, but I also breathed it. What they told me, I would carry on with me to my school, etc. When I came to my new school I was exposed to so much diversity, the diversity I never saw before. This diversity exposed the distortion I had been shown and had. People talked to me about their own experiences and this was the first time I ever heard of some major women role models. While many different people had different samples of what was the truth, I finally discovered my truth.

The second aspect of the Four-Way Test is “Is it fair to all concerned?” The simple answer to this question is yes. While my parents may be a little upset that I did not turn out the way they

expected me to, they are still proud of me and the independence I have established in my life. It is fair to me because I can finally believe in the things I want to believe in. I can do my own research and certainly choose a political party, religion, etc. Some people may say that it is not fair to my parents because they taught me differently for so long. In reality, my parents are content that I am my own person now. With that being said, I still go to my parents and talk to them about it, and yes sometimes those conversations turn into arguments, but I am happy they love me and my entrenched identity.

The third part of the Four-Way Test is “Will it build goodwill and better friendships?” Whilst learning my truth, I also had to have an open mind. I had to come to the terms that my truth is not everybody's truth. Having that open mind eventually helped me form many healthy friendships. People I would have never thought I would even be friends with became like my sisters. I have friends who are the total opposite of me, and I believe that is healthy. Their truths are far different from my truth, but that does not stop us from being very close. Sometimes my truth can affect my relationships in a bad way though, as some people cannot accept that everybody is different and believe their route is the only path.

The fourth and final part of the Four-Way Test is “Will it be Beneficial to all concerned?” The truth that I found will be beneficial to me, and to many other people. This includes my new friends and my new family! Some people could not be benefiting from my truth though. Some of my distant relatives are adamantly against my opinion and truth, they believe that it is not right. It is okay for them to believe it is not right, it is their opinion after all, but they have ruined our relationship by cutting me off. Sometimes that lack of support from them gets to me, I think “why would they be upset that I have found my own truth?” There really is no pronounced answer, but

I do know that I would rather stand up for what I believe in then pretend to live out somebody else's truth!

From what I have experienced in finding my very own truth, this is what I believe. Everybody has a different view of The World, there can be multiple truths! Somebody could believe one thing, and it is okay for another person to say the total opposite. And I will admit, it did take me awhile to completely understand that concept. Once I did accept it, however, it became easier for me to find the truth. You must look from all sides and understand how you see it, other people may not. It is just how Albert Einstein put it, "Great Spirits have always encountered violent opposition from mediocre minds."