

Feel Good Friday 2018-19

Overview: *We will be sharing Feel Good stories with one another this year every Friday that we meet. Each student will be required to do ONE (1) FGF per marking period. There will be a class schedule of when each individual's work is due. Because each person only has to do one, each one is worth a large quiz grade.*

WHEN, we share these stories with the class, you are required to complete each of the following:

- 1) A summary/description of the feel good behavior: you will produce 1 well written paragraph containing details sufficient so that the reader would not have to read the article to understand what happened.
- 2) An explanation of reasons why this makes you (and/or will make other people) feel good: you will write at least 1 thoughtful paragraph that explains what it is about the behaviors, actions, or decisions of humans toward other humans that is inspirational, positive, and/or elicits emotion. Use language that connects the actions of the story to the reactions of the reader.
- 3) A demonstration of connections to our class: you will write at least 1 thoughtful paragraph to make specific connections to some elements of our course. You are allowed to use some license and make broad connections to the content that we have covered. You can make connections to situations that people in our class have shared who have had similar experiences (unless it is the teacher's story, please speak to the individual first if you plan to use their stories.) Another option is to connect your story to the themes or values that we have focused on in the class.

NOTES:

- You **MUST** choose a story or article that is written. You **ABSOLUTELY** can use one that has a video attached to the story, but it cannot be video only. The written/article is the substance of what you will share and report on, the video needs to be supplemental.
- Feel goods have to consist of actions towards humans. Animals can be involved in the positive behavior, but the actions need to have a human to human element.

- **ABSOLUTELY** no social experiments, pranks, etc.
- We will share several of these stories every Friday that we meet as a class. I will start each of our Friday classes (except for test/quiz days) with time to read shared student work. Other students **WILL** be reading your work.
- I will make the order of participants. Late work will be accepted until the following Friday **ONLY**. You are still responsible for sharing your work with me on your due date even if your due date falls on a Friday that you are absent, or it is a test day, or it is a snow day, or you have an important game, or you are in the play that day, or...
- I will share the order for 1st quarter at the start of the 2nd week of school. Everyone will do one of these each quarter. You can pick a story at any time. If you claim your story before it is your due week, tell me, so that I can alert others that the story is off the board. No repeat stories.
- Stories **HAVE** to be current (last 6 months.) *some pre-approved exceptions may apply*
- You must share the link to the story and cite it according to proper **MLA** expectations

An example of a Student Response

Freeman, Vernon. "8-Year-Old Girl with Cancer Uses Make-A-Wish to Clean up Trash." *WTVR.com*, 1 Mar. 2016, wtvr.com/2016/03/01/8-year-old-girl-with-cancer-uses-make-a-wish-to-clean-up-trash/.

1) Summary/description of the feel good behavior:

An 8 year old Missouri girl named Amelia Meyer decided to use an opportunity from the Make A Wish Foundation to get people together to clean up her local park. Meyer, who is suffering from brain cancer, loves being outside, and decided that spending time at the park and bringing her friends and family together would be the best wish that she could have. The response from others was beyond her wildest expectations. Local businesses, the Parks and Recreation Department, the Police Department, Fire Department, and hundreds of volunteers all came together and flocked to the park to make Amelia feel like a queen when she arrived. Meyer's selfless act did not end at her local park, however, as a local Mayor declared the day in her honor, and several parks across the country planned pickup days after news spread on social media with the hashtag #ameliaswish.

2) Reasons why this makes you (and/or will make other people) feel good:

Amelia's decision to stay local, spend time with family and friends, and choose a wish that is selfless all make me feel good. I am extremely loyal to my hometown and the town that I work in. I have spent every year of my life in these two towns and have based most of my life decisions on my ability to stay close by. When I hear about people doing selfless and proactive things that benefit my home, it brings up very positive feelings. Amelia must have some of the same feelings about her home. My family is also extremely important to me, and I find that I often base my decisions based on whether it will impact our ability to spend quality time together. Amelia wanted to make sure that she had the ability to include many in her wish instead of the more traditional small set of people who would participate in a Make A Wish. Her selflessness is the most impressive part of the Wish to me. I think that if I were faced with such a difficult battle as Ameila, the last thing that I would think of would be something that would benefit others as much (or more) than it would help me or make me happy. She is truly inspirational.

3) Connections to our class: make connections to some elements of our course.

One of the values that we focus on in this class is Collectivism. Collectivism is a value where an individual does something for the good of the group, over the motivation being to do something for individual benefit. Amelia has a collectivist mindset when she decides to have the park cleaned because it helps all. A second connection to class content has to do with a concept that we have learned about called the cultural transmission theory. The cultural transmission theory states that we learn our behaviors and develop our values based on the proportion of positive vs. negative actions, attitudes, and decisions reached by the people around us. I believe that Ameila must have a really strong, positive, and proactive support system around her.

(*An example of the type article that would work great. I picked this out this week)

Walmart Cashier Does Woman's Nails After She Was Denied Service At The Salon [August 5, 2018](#)

When a Walmart cashier in Burton, Michigan saw a customer get turned away from the store's nail salon, she took matters into her own hands.

Tasia Smith works at the Subway inside the Walmart and witnessed the scene.

"Today, this sweet girl went into burton Wal-Mart's nail salon "Da Vi nails" and they denied her service because 'she moves too much'," Smith wrote in a Facebook post. "Out of the kindness of the Walmart worker's heart, she went and bought nail polish and came into my work to paint this sweet girls nails. They were so patient with her (which she did great, barely moved & was just so sweet)... Thank you to the Walmart worker for making this beautiful girl's day!"

Smith snapped a photo of Walmart cashier Ebony Harris skipping her break to paint the woman's nails and posted it on [Facebook](#).



Credit: Tasia Smith / Walmart Burton.

"I just wanted to post it for awareness and appreciation, because people needed to know what was going on with the business and Ebony deserved all the appreciation she could get," Tasia told [WJRT](#).

Harris said she watched the nail salon, located next door, refuse to do the woman's nails because her hands shake quite a bit due to cerebral palsy. So, she decided to do something about it.

"I just wanted to make her day special. I didn't really want her day to be ruined. That's why I did it," Harris said.

"And you know, she moved her hands a little bit and she kept saying she was sorry. And, I told her 'don't say that'. I said 'you're fine'."

Harris says she hopes her actions inspire others to treat people with disabilities the way they would want to be treated themselves.

"We're not trying to bash the nail salon. We're not trying to make them lose customers, make them look bad," she said. "But maybe spread awareness

that no matter the person, who they are, what color they are, disability, whatever, they're people too. She's a girly girl. She's just like you, me, Tasia, my daughter, anybody. She wants to look pretty, you know, and so why can't she?