



Student Extra Challenge Exemplar: Mohammed's 3.1 Blog Response to Online Article (Rough Draft)

Review Mohammed's blog response and Danica's suggestions.

- What influence do others have on who we become?
- How important is it to pursue our passions?
- What drives our need to belong?
- What does it mean to "live well"?



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Living Well in Spite of Evil

Wherever we turn, we are assaulted by headlines and stories about the evil in the world. In contrast to those dark forces that surround us, is the innate good of human nature. I believe that although Reena Virk was murdered in such a horrible manner that something good can come out of her short life and brutal death: the knowledge that evil exists all around us and that it is the job of every person on the planet **to seek it out and remove it.** Like the girls and boy charged - they were found out and subsequently removed from society. When we walk down the street we can look away when approached by poverty and homelessness or we can do something. We can ignore the assault on our environment or we can leave less of a carbon footprint. We can stand by and watch bullies mercilessly torment victims, or we can report it and seek justice for the weaker among us. Living well means living right, with the clear conscience **you** have **done yours.** Have **you?**

Now that you have decided to take a stand, it's time to consider how much of an impact those evildoers have had on you. We are "attacked" every where we go, look, view or read these days. **The media - television, newspapers, film, books, the internet, all news radio (- well, you get the idea), bombard us with images and slogans that make us want to change our appearance, buy clothes, get thin, grow stronger, be smarter...the list goes on and on.** What you need to do is determine who or what is going to influence your life and whom you wish to become. Your friends have the greatest impact on your life right now - are you making the right choices? What is fun and games today may lead to a problem with **a criminal record** check down the road. Look, nobody is asking you to be an angel. All I am saying is that in the words of a famous philosopher, **"look before you leap"!**

Any suggestions?

You might want to focus on "we" instead of "you," so you don't sound like you are judging your readers.

Done your what?

You might want to suggest how people can get involved. Are there agencies or hotlines? What do you think?

You might want to check your punctuation here.

Does a juvenile record stay with a person when he/she becomes an adult?

I remember in the personal response, we were supposed to avoid clichés. Is there another way to say this idea?



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Your voice is really strong here. I think that you need to give your readers some direction, though. What do you want them to do? Be clear, and give them suggestions about what they can do. I heard if you read stuff out loud, you catch more errors when you edit. Might be worth trying.