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We always talk about words such as leadership, sportsmanship, and citizenship in our school. We talk about the definitions of those words, yet many of us don't understand their importance. A world, even just a community, without leadership or citizenship, would be a horrible place to live. Those words have more importance and role into our society than most of us give credit.

Sportsmanship plays a large role in our society. According to www.aspenprojectplay.org, 56.1% of kids ages 6-17 participated in some type of sport in the U.S. in 2019, either on a sports team or including lessons they take. This shows that the next generation will be made up of over 50% former athletes, if over half the kids in the U.S. participate in sports, the way coaches treat sportsmanship plays a huge role in the outcome of young athletes when they become adults. Society can only be peaceful when people treat others with respect and basic kindness, or just do the right thing. If coaches positively teach sportsmanship, athletes will have good basic moral values such as respect, kindness, and leadership in their adulthood. Not only young athletes, but professional athletes need to show sportsmanship. Many kids look up to professional athletes and want to be like them. If those athletes do not show sportsmanship, many kids will be negatively influenced by the professionals. If we throw away the value of sportsmanship, youth will grow up with the idea that it is acceptable to be rude or not respect others as humans. Many kids seem to be influenced by sports when they are young. Sportsmanship, if valued or not, will determine the outcome of young athletes when they grow up.

Citizenship is important for many reasons as well. A community only does well whenever everyone does their part to better our world. If people do not fill their role as a good citizen, such as littering or stealing, the community will become a negative place to live in. If everyone does their small part, the world will be an amazing place as a whole. Citizenship is like being part of a sports team – everyone has to do their job for the team to win, or even function properly. All each person has to do is be a positive member in society, such as being honest or taking responsibility, or acts as little as cleaning up trash, donating, or even starting a fundraiser for charity. It takes more than one person to do these things, but if everyone would apply this concept, it would improve our world.

Lastly, leadership is crucial in almost anything we do. It takes everyone to do their part and hard work to successfully complete a goal. It takes a team, usually, but if you don't know what steps you need to take or how to start, how are you supposed to complete this goal? It takes a leader to motivate and guide a team in the right direction. Without a leader, in athletic or not, it is impossible to get anything done. Someone needs to step up and take charge for there to be a positive outcome. For example, every successful business or company has a CEO, manager, or boss of some kind. This shows that leaders and leadership are a need in any organization or team. Without a leader, the team will fall apart.

These three words – sportsmanship, citizenship and kindness – have a lot more meaning than they may seem. If we as a society do not apply these concepts, we will fail miserably as a whole. We can not forget these values, because they are too important to lose.