

***Essay Question: What is the most important lesson you learned while working at the theatre that you think will help you throughout your life?***

While I was working at Showboat Cinemas, I learned that the best way to treat others is with kindness and respect. Working at a theatre allowed me to meet people from all walks of life who I otherwise would not have known. Although everyone was different in a way, I realized that the best way to conduct my job was by creating a comfortable and welcoming space for them to enjoy the experience of going to the movies. I found that the simple acts of kindness created the best connections, whether that was saying "Hi" when people entered through the door or making small talk with the customers while serving popcorn. Often, going to the movies is a new and exciting experience for people, so it is important to make the space inclusive. I remember one time when a young boy came up to the snack bar all by himself. He had money from his parents but was shy and unsure what he could buy with his limited allowance. I pointed out the different prices and helped him sort through his money to purchase some candy. As we talked, he became more comfortable and overjoyed by his new sense of independence. A lot of times, parents allow their teenage children to go movie theatres alone because they trust they will be safe there and they want to get rid of them for a few hours. Going to the theatres allows kids to be more independent while also teaching them how to manage money and communicate with others.

Kindness and respect also has a positive impact on my interactions between coworkers. Working at a theatre is a collaborative job: it forces a team of workers to manage their time wisely and work together when delegating tasks. For this to happen smoothly, coworkers must learn to respect each other's opinions and listen when someone needs help. My favorite moments working at the theatre were during the busiest weekend hours when new, blockbuster movies had just been released. Working then felt like a form of art: there was a fluid motion in the way we sold tickets, served the customers, and cleaned the theatres. All of my coworkers were motivated to complete their tasks efficiently and with the support of each other. These days were stressful at times, but they also strengthened the bonds within my team.

Overall, working at Showboat Cinemas has changed how I see myself and the people around me. It improved my communication skills and allowed me to be comfortable with asking for help. I've learned to welcome others into my life just as I would welcome them into the theatre. Because if life is like a movie, I want to provide the support and care that allows each of us to watch it. And when the end credits of my life appear on the screen, I want to be remembered as someone who chose kindness and love.