

# AP Language and Composition at Western Michigan Christian

Assignment: Watch the TED Talk: "What comes after tragedy? Forgiveness." Respond to the talk focusing on the following: What ideas/quotes stood out to you? One of the throughlines for Teaching for Transformation is "justice seeker." It says "I can see injustice and try to respond with love and fairness." It also references the verse Micah 6:8: "What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God (NIV)." How are these ideas evident in this TED Talk?

Many Christians have lost sight of what forgiveness is and how we are to use it. Normally, we think of justice and mercy as being opposites, that we can't have justice and mercy at the same time, but what the speakers are basically saying is that mercy will fix justice, or rather the lack thereof...This is why God tells us to act justly and to love mercy. He wouldn't put them in the same verse if they were truly counterintuitive, rather because they uphold each other. Mercy is the remedy for injustice, which is why Khamisa forgives his son's murderer, and why God commands for us to use it.

- Ethan

I think that the story that the two men share is incredibly amazing not just because of the forgiveness but that two men from different religions and backgrounds came together and put aside their differences for one common goal. That is what the passage I think is getting at, that we, in order to walk humbly with God, must take on the responsibility of loving each other in a way that is similar to Him. When we put God before all else and use Him as a model to live our lives it comes around full circle because we then show the love that He shows us and the mercy and grace that he shows us so often.

- Michael



The ideas of the Bible verses were evident in the Ted Talk when he gave the example of his son dying. Instead of trying to get revenge, he created a program that would help decrease violence among the youth in America. He forgave the man who murdered his son. That is the definition of responding with love. It is amazing to see he responded in that way. Forgiveness is key and the whole video showed the ideas of love and mercy and humbleness. He forgave and now he is at peace.

- Olivia



The peace formula that included goodwill, friendship, trust, empathy, compassion, and finally peace also interested me because Azim Khamisa invented this formula for peace after his son was murdered. He is continually striving for peace in our society and this was only the catalyst for him which amazes me. He displayed the "Justice Seeker" idea as he forgave Tony, the one who killed his son, and visited him at the prison which led him to forgive him. He extended love to Tony and worked alongside his grandfather to try and get him out of prison. This man acted justly in the ways he interacted with Tony and his grandfather as he didn't hold a grudge against them, but displayed love and forgiveness to them. Tony's grandfather also stated that Azim Khamisa "led in the spirit of forgiveness" and that he was in the presence of "God-spirited people" when he was invited to his house and met his family. This demonstrates the love and kindness this family has even after such a tragedy.

- Audrey



Teaching *for*  
**TRANSFORMATION**