Taking Initiative

The video "Taking Initiative" teaches you about the importance of taking initiative and leading by example. The young people in the stories below each saw a problem and took the initiative to address it. Solving problems like this not only allowed them to create opportunities for themselves, but it also made the world a better place.

Try This!

Read each of the stories below. Then answer the questions that follow.

Identifying Initiative

Marley Diaz, 13

Marley noticed that at home she had many books showing black girls and diverse experiences. But she didn't see books like that at school! She wanted to make sure that all students could see themselves in books. So, she decided to collect 1,000 books that show diversity from friends and businesses. Then, she gave the books to communities in need. Since Marley started this project, she has donated more than 11,000 books!

What problem did Marley notice? How did she take initiative to solve it?

Rayouf Alhumedhi, 16

While texting with her friends one day, Rayouf noticed that there wasn't an emoji that looked like her. She is Muslim and wears a headscarf. She wrote to Apple and eventually the Unicode Consortium, who controls emoji standards. She didn't give up, and finally Apple agreed. Today, you can find an emoji of a woman wearing a headscarf on all Apple phones.

What problem did Rayouf notice? How did she take initiative to solve it?

What problems have you noticed in your community? How could you take initiative to solve them?

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