

# Is it always best to tell the truth?

## *An Argumentative Essay Sample*

While most people are entitled to formulate personal opinions, they are not always capable of formulating their own facts. Facts are indisputable. Facts are truths that keep society's inhabitants honest, and nations at peace. It is, without a doubt, always best to tell the truth based on standard, personal principle.

Presenting the truth is the very basis of the American judicial system. When a witness takes the stand, he or she is sworn in under oath to "tell the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help me God." Telling the truth is therefore an indication of one's righteousness and honor. An entire case's verdict is premised on telling the truth, not renditions of it. Renditions of the truth are not protected in a court of law, making it evident that the judicial system in the U.S. goes to great lengths to ensure that the truth is always told, as this is part of the national, moral standard.

Many politicians believe that they have a license to lie, however. In some instances, government officials might make the excuse that lying is necessary to protect the security of a country. Even though politicians justify this in the name of 'the greater good,' lying creates a false perception of reality. Consider the Watergate Scandal of the 1970s. President Nixon claimed he was hiding truths about his abuse of political power because it was 'for the good of the nation,' yet he became the first president to resign for these dishonest acts. Since politicians are charged with the duty of honest leadership and are characterized as honorable and ethical, they should tell the truth always, despite its repercussions.

Not only is the truth valuable politically, but it bears religious principle as well. Knowing the truth, speaking the truth, and feeling the truth are three integral mottos in both Buddhist and Hindu beliefs, two of the most ancient religions of Eastern culture. These mantras filter into the modern practice of yoga, because in this practice, telling the truth is at the core of one's own spiritual growth and discovery.

The power of truth is particularly valuable when considering one's health. Lots of times, harmful behaviors such as smoking and drinking are glamorized on reality television shows, or glorified in Hollywood films. However, by knowing the truth of what lies beneath choices like these, one can make more informed decisions. The modern commercial ad campaign, "The Truth.com," for example, seeks to reveal the dangerous consequences of smoking. Specifically, it unearths the deadly facts of tobacco in an effort to curb use. These harsh but telling truths are saving lives every day, as quitters become winners when they use the truth to empower their own lifestyle behaviors.

It's fairly clear that, more often than not, the truth will always "set us free." Based on sheer, moral principle, it is important that we speak truth to one another if we want society to improve. Withholding it does not necessarily make us liars, but it does leave room for consequence when things are left unsaid. While the occasional circumstance might arise where masking the truth may be necessary, these situations are far and few between, mere exceptions to choosing the higher road of always being honest.

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\* This essay was originally drafted by the teachers of Boca Raton Community High School and has been altered and adapted for instruction by edPioneer Consulting, LLC.