

Brandon Torres essay, Winner 10 and Under

If Arthur Ashe were alive today, what do you think would give him hope?

It wasn't easy for Arthur Ashe. He struggled with many battles such as racial prejudice, AIDS, apartheid and education. He didn't let anything stand in his way. He fought for what he believed in, becoming the first African American to win the grand slam tournament.

Arthur Ashe was ten years old when he won his first Tennis Championship. He worked real hard and studied really hard to accomplish the things he wanted. This included his education as well. He was the first one in his family to finish college. He was a champion in everything he set his heart to do.

I believe the things that would give Arthur Ashe hope if he were alive today was everything he struggled for. He became a role model and opened the doors for minority groups, especially young children. Arthur Ashe started an organization which helps children develop skills academically as well as with the game. This organization is open to all.

The National Junior Tennis and Learning organization has tennis classes. Tennis as we know is a very expensive sport. Tennis was very popular amongst the wealthy. This organization helps children with lesser means and are able to learn and play the sport, the way Arthur Ashe intended to.

Another thing that would give Arthur Ashe hope would be to find a cure for AIDS. The fact that Arthur Ashe was forced to come out publicly with his disease helped so many other people of all races who were being outcast. AIDS was the unknown. This helped educate people and bring awareness to the disease as we now know saved many people's lives.

I believe if Arthur Ashe were alive the fact so many of his ideas and his fights were accomplished would bring him hope and happiness. He would educate and shed light on hard issues. He would help people speak out more and try to change things that could be changed. Hard work and determination will always help you achieve the goals you are looking for. Arthur Ashe would hope that everyone strive and work for what they want, doing it in unity.