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***“FEARLESS is not living in absence of
FEAR, but in the MASTERY of FEAR.”***

Champion Mentality

Good morning and happy Monday! I just finished up a long weekend in Bremerton Washington! Saturday night I participated in the District 32 Speech Contest! Six contestants between Alaska and Washington, but only ONE could take home the prize and move on to the World Championship of International Speech.

This was the biggest stage I have ever been on! Maybe one of the most important speeches I've given in my life so far to about 150 people. I had spent countless hours preparing and practicing. I delivered my speech, with more nerves and raw emotion than I had ever given this speech. As I shared my story, and as I preached my methods, and philosophies, I could see and feel the audience fall into my words and emotions.

When I finished, the room broke out in applause, some stood, some cried. At the time of announcements for winners, the chief judge said, “we had one disqualification for going over the time limit.” I spoke for 3 seconds too long. I did not move on to the world championship. I did not receive an award. I did not even place. I did however impact and touch over 100 hearts and souls.

At first it was difficult for me knowing that I had worked so hard and come so far only to let 3 seconds knock me out of the running. I have accepted that those 3 seconds were a blessing. A pathway to my future. An opportunity, to be better.

I will challenge myself. I will learn. I will improve. I will persevere. I will Conquer! Nothing can stop me now!

“It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.” – Theodore Roosevelt