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2023 High School Scholarship Essay Contest
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An Impact on the World

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The statement made by primatologist Jane Goodall, Ph.D., wonderfully captures the notion that each and every person has a duty to protect the environment and the community we live in whether it be indirectly or directly. It emphasizes how every action we take, no matter how insignificant, affects the world around us. This remark is a good reminder to be mindful of how crucial it is to understand how our actions affect others. We frequently have the tendency to think that our efforts are inconsequential or insignificant. Confronting the possibility that any action we take, no matter how tiny, may have detrimental effects on the environment, other people, and other living things can be challenging. This remark also emphasizes the advantage of this truth, which is that we can decide to change the world for the better. We can choose to act in ways that benefit others and the planet, rather than just ourselves.

Greta Thunberg, an influential young Swedish climate activist, is an example of a person who embodies this remark. In August 2018, Thunberg missed class to demonstrate in front of the Swedish Parliament and demand action on climate change. After Swedish general elections were held, she continued her strike every Friday holding a sign that read, "Skolstrejk fur klimatet" (School Strike for Climate). Millions of young people were motivated by Thunberg's efforts to protest climate change in the streets around the world. The influence one person can have when they decide to

take action for a cause they believe in is powerfully demonstrated by her narrative. Her readiness to speak up and take decisive action has sparked a worldwide movement and drawn attention to a problem that concerns us all. Thunberg has motivated others to take similar action by deciding what type of difference she wanted to make, and her influence will be felt for years to come.

Whether it be choices that we make out in public, from the things we buy to how we get rid of our trash, has an impact on the environment and the world we live in. Deciding to have a positive impact can have a powerful emotional payoff. We can experience a feeling of purpose and a connection to something bigger than ourselves when we take actions that are good for other people and the environment. No matter how modest a difference our activities may make, we can enjoy the satisfaction of knowing that they are doing so. Ultimately, Jane Goodall's quotation pushes us to acknowledge our ability, as individuals, to influence the world around us. This can be both intimidating and empowering on an emotional level but promotes the idea of confronting fear. It calls on us to be aware of our influence on the world and deliberate about the kind of impact we wish to create. It also provides the chance to change the world and to enjoy the emotional benefits that come from leading a life that has meaning and a positive influence.