

Expository Essay Sample

Of all the friends one gets to have in a lifetime, the good friends are the ones who last longest and become family. Friends are the people we let into our walled-off lives – they are the people we know well and with whom we have a bond of mutual affection. A good friend is someone who defends and protects, who is loyal, considerate and kind, a person who is fun and brings out the best in their friends. The list of qualities making up a good friend is endless and depends on the individual. However, there are many common qualities that can be seen in all “good” friends.

For starters, a good friend is a person on which someone else can always depend. This can probably be said about all good friends. They are **dependable**. When another friend needs them, they are the first there to help. They make their friend’s problem their own problem, too. Whether it’s money, time, resources or emotional support, a good friend is always there for someone they care about, for their other friends. They are reliable – you can always rely on a good friend. It’s kind of a little miracle, that your friend always happens to be there for you, willing to offer their time and energy.

Also, another quality of a good friend is being a **good listener**. Sometimes, people just need someone to talk to, someone who will listen and put their own thoughts, concerns, and opinions aside just for a few minutes. Being a good listener is a friend attractor, actually, because listening demonstrates one’s support, sensitivity, empathy, kindness, and consideration – among other things. In times of celebration and in times of hardship, what everyone needs and wants and requires is someone they can express their thoughts, emotions, concerns, and celebrations to. It’s a rather simple, almost innate need – to have a friend.

On top of that, a good friend is **thoughtful**. A good friend is a friend who will, upon hearing of their friend’s bad day, will change their plans and plan something that friend will definitely find uplifting. A good friend in someone who will, upon getting the news about their friend’s promotion or a new job, will throw a party in their name and celebrate with them to make the moment memorable and special. Thoughtfulness means mindfulness, which requires being a good listener and caring about a person.

Everyone wants **respect**, needs it and has to have it. It feels good. It’s a feeling of deep admiration for someone or something elicited by their abilities, qualities, or achievements, something all good friends also must have or demonstrate from time to time. Most good friendships are supported by mutual respect. This means they look up to that person and have an immense amount of satisfaction in being close to, associating with this person and calling them a “friend.”

Lastly, **straightforwardness** is also a quality that can be found in good friends. This means they say things as they are and can be honest without sugarcoating the truth. This occurs only in the case the friends trust each other’s opinions and can share them.

The qualities of a good friend range, as there are tons of different qualities that people find valuable and attractive in others. But the qualities listed above – that illustrate how a good friend is dependable, a good listener, thoughtful, respectful and straightforward – are the ones most people most likely see, or want to see, in a really good friend.

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