

Aria
Saratoga Independent School
Grade 8

How often do we stop to think about the commitment of the people who protect us? Maintaining order and safety isn't an easy feat, but police officers try their best to do that, despite their bad image. Officers are extremely hated in the media, by people who may have never had any interactions with police, and all of the good officers are grouped into that ridicule. I believe that police officers are fundamental to our society's functioning, and they should be treated with respect.

By taking our safety for granted, we disregard the danger that police put themselves in. A functioning society needs law enforcement to maintain order and reduce crime. According to the Council of Criminal Justice, the crime rate in 2025 is the lowest it has been in decades. "Homicide, the most serious of the crimes, has fallen to 14% below the rates of the first six months of 2019" (CCJ). Police officers are the most accessible elements of the law enforcement system, and their commitment contributes immensely to maintaining order.

Police officers constantly deal with things that we don't want to, and every day, they put themselves in life-threatening situations for the community. Imagine this: You've been driving, and you're over the speed limit. Mistake or not, you can't miss the flashing red and blue lights inching up behind you. While slowing down the car, you feel agitated and start to antagonize the officer who comes up to give you a ticket, when really, they were only trying to do their job and uphold their oath.

Officers swear to protect citizens before they can work. "My fundamental duty is to serve the community by safeguarding lives and property. I will uphold the Constitution and honor the rights of all to life, liberty, equality, and justice." By responding to danger with courage, officers show the integrity and self-restraint asked for by the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics. At an event the school held, I had an interview with a police officer there. I've been researching police officers a lot, since it's one of the careers I've been interested in. He told me that the job is incredibly dangerous, yet he enjoys being able to help and protect citizens.

Officers put their lives on the line every day, and they deserve for that to be acknowledged. Safety is extremely important, and the public only ever sees a small portion of what officers do every day. Next time you have an interaction with an officer, I ask you to show

as much respect as possible, because they will reciprocate it. I truly believe that police officers are an important part of our society, and they should be treated with respect.