**WELDING CONTEST PARAGRAPHS**

1. **Shape of Character** –

How does a welding program help you as a person? Explain how elements needed to be successful in welding also make you a better and more successful person.

Universal skills (see below)
Patience with struggle
Organizational skills
2. **Change your life, or change the lives of others** -
How could the CTE welding program change your life for the better, or possibly even somebody else’s life?

**Career-wise, productive member of society, support yourself & your family.**

AMERICAN IDOL BACKSTORY - How can welding skills help others live better lives? Give example.

1. **Influence –**
How has our welding program helped your vision of becoming a welding professional and how to start a career?

Explain how this program has “given you direction.”

1. **Why should our school be considered to move on to the next phase in the contest – Metal Fabrication?**

Explain how our Albany and Schoharie campuses need better equipment.

How would this project part of the contest benefit us experience-wise?

Teamwork-building, sharpen our skills, the use of real-world application of knowledge to solve a problem and how a project is better than a simple exercise

**10 UNIVERSAL SKILLS FOR YOUR RESUME**

1. **Industry Awareness.** It doesn’t matter what industry you work in, there are always going to be changes. Your strength is to know what changes are happening at the time, and being able to adapt. Bonus points if you’re able to predict changes that might occur. A great way to start doing this is to track your industry in the news, through groups on LinkedIn, and at networking events.

2. **Negotiation and Persuasion.** These are skills that can help you in almost any industry. In addition to coming in handy in sales situations, you can also use them to help calm down a rowdy client, motivate a team or bring about positive changes in the office. There are so many different possibilities that these traits are really invaluable.

3. **Leadership.** Just because you will have someone managing you doesn’t mean you don’t need leadership skills. Leadership means being able to take direction, and working through any problems that may arise on your own. It also means being able to take charge in a group setting with co-workers. While most of the time you may only be leading yourself, you’ll be able to prove yourself as a valuable employee with a skill like this.

4. **Research Skills.** You aren’t going to know the answer to every problem that comes your way, nor are you expected to. However, the less you go to your manager with problems, the more they will see you as a competent employee. Being able to do your own research, whether it be on software, clients, or simple troubleshooting tasks can be invaluable in the workplace.

5. **Adaptability.** Piggy-backing off the idea that you need to be aware of changes, you also need to be able to take those changes and run with them. Change can be hard, but in most industries it’s necessary. Adaptability can mean something as simple as moving where your desk is to switching over to a new software system in the office. Managers don’t want to hold employees’ hands through each change that occurs.

6. **Interpersonal Skills.** In most industries, being able to be outgoing, friendly, and talkative can be very beneficial. Even when it comes to employees who work in solitary positions, having these skills can increase earning potential and help land better positions. In the case that you find you are more introverted, it is helpful to think of yourself as having two modes: work mode, where you are outgoing and helpful, and off mode where you can stick to yourself.

7. **Communication Skills.** Some of the top problems in any office stem from poor communication skills. Whether you are a leader or a low-level employee, you need to be able to communicate your wants, needs, and desires. In the case that you are in management, communication skills are absolutely crucial. You can’t run a functional team if they do not know exactly what you want from them.

8. **Work Ethic.** You will often hear many employers lamenting about how difficult it is to find employees who actually want to work. This is a skill that is invaluable to any employer. You can demonstrate your work ethic by showing up to work every day and on time. Put in your hours getting your projects done and on deadline. Many employers will often choose the reliable, mediocre employee over the unreliable employee who does better work.

9. **Professionalism.** Being able to show that you are serious about a job can be one of the best steps towards securing an offer. You should be able to be responsible and fair in all of your business-related decisions. To both employers and co-workers you will be seen as mature and self-confident when you can behave this way.

10. **Willingness to Learn.** Again, this stems from the idea that all industries are constantly changing, and employees need to be able to adapt if they want to stay in the game. This doesn’t mean that you need to learn about everything overnight and show a profound knowledge in the new subject area. You simply need to show that you are willing to learn and will put in a genuine effort.