I closed my eyes, crossed my arms tightly, and began to slowly fall backward, seeking a safe landing in my mind. With a sudden skip of a heart beat, I felt my shoulders being caught by someone’s hands. My eyes opened wide and I curiously turned around and saw that my best friend Emma was standing right behind me. We were doing a trust fall exercise in my gym class, and I couldn’t be more happier to know that she was the one there for me. I was simply touched by her actions, because just like me, she valued the four little words that I am writing about today, “I will be there.” This leads me to my core value that I am happy to share with others: trustworthiness.

“I will be there.” The words itself expresses the fragility of trust and how it does not come immediately in anyone’s hands. Students like Emma have been able to trust me back because I value these four words. As student council president, I make sure that I am there for each student, listening to their ideas and making them believe they can make a difference in our school community. During music class, I make sure that I am there for my classmates and cheering them on so that we can all play a beautiful symphony together. When my sports team is behind in games, I make sure that I am there for my teammates, showing them my perseverance and determination to help us get back in the lead. When my classmates need help with an assignment, I make sure that I am there for them by sharing my guidance and tips. The list goes on and on, but it all falls under the precious concept of trust.

I find that trustworthiness is the foundation for the other six pillars of character, not just a law for life. Responsibility is gained when others can count on you. Respect is planted when others know you will follow the golden rule in any circumstance. Citizenship is developed when others know that you will be mindful of actions like littering even when you are not being watched. Caring for others is possible through the trust you have built into your relationships with family, friends, and teachers. Fairness is valued when you can be trusted to give every person on your team the equal opportunity to contribute to success. Any pillar of character can stand strong inside you when you have the foundation of trust.

“I will be there.” The four words are simple to say but not easy to follow. As a wise person had once stated, “A bird sitting on a tree is never afraid of the branch breaking, because its trust is not on the branch but on its own wings.” I trust my character--the wings that will keep me soaring on the right path, to make the right difference in my home, school, and community.