

Martina Lam – Arthur Ashe Essay

Arthur Ashe was one of the best tennis players in the world! He was the first African American to win the U.S. Open. Ashe was very brave not only on the tennis courts, but also outside the courts. Arthur Ashe stood up to racism and to discrimination and to things he believed in. He supported AIDS research and started the National Junior Tennis and Learning (NJTL) organization.

I believed Arthur Ashe created the NJTL so that kids of all ages and all skin colors could all learn and play tennis together equally without being discriminated against. He wanted to give kids the opportunity to succeed in tennis and academics and to develop leaders of tomorrow. NJTL gives kids the chance to learn how to be great leaders, gain education skills, and life skills needed to succeed in life and tennis! By giving kids the opportunities to learn such skills, they could find good jobs and go to college. Ashe also believed that it was important to develop future leaders so that they could help empower their own communities through life skills learned from tennis and academics.

Playing tennis at NJTL helped me find something that I am really passionate about. I love tennis and I love sharing my knowledge of tennis with others. Through tennis, I gained self-confidence. Interacting with children my age contributed to my developing confidence in social skills as well. I also gain confidence in my academics, which helped me improve my grades and overcome my fear of math. I no longer dread going to math class. More importantly, I learned through tennis the value of serving my community. In the future, when I grow up, I want to serve and empower my community through tennis and education as well. I want kids just like myself to realize the world of possibilities that are available. And it is through opportunities during my time with NJTL that I realized my possibilities are endless. I just need to work hard and play hard!