My Last Lecture

Randy Pausch’s “Last Lecture” speech is the type that has the power to change your life. He spoke about the importance of living life how you want to with no regrets. Randy knew he did not have much time left; he lived as if nothing was wrong and just lived a normal life. His book The Last Lecture basically talks about many things that can change one’s views in life. He wrote about letting children express their creativity in any way possible, and told people of any age to dream big. He then spoke about the distinctions between people and things.

When he gave the speech at Carnegie Mellon University, and then later on the Oprah Winfrey Show, he spoke to the audience about how hardworking people made a big impact in his life. Children inspired him too. Since he has three boys, he did his best to give them everything he had and more, such as a great childhood. Even though he knew he was dying, his children were the most important thing on his mind because he would leave them while they are still young. Nothing more can be done about his pancreatic cancer. Throughout his speech, he spoke about his childhood, which led him to where he is now in life. He is very grateful to his parents who supported him in the decisions he made growing up. When he became a father, he fully understood why his parents allowed him to draw on his walls as a child, because a child’s creativity develops the child’s mind. Overall, the “Last Lecture” did change me in many ways.

After listening to him give his speech, I started asking myself, “If I had three to six months left to live, what would I do and say?” For Starters, I wouldn’t do anything different in my life. I have always lived my life as if every day was my last, because death can happen to anyone at any moment. I know it’s difficult to take in, but it’s one of
those things in life that is unavoidable. I know how it feels to lose a very close friend. Back in high school, this person made an impact on my life. Sadly, he passed away during my junior year at the age of seventeen. After that event, I started to become very open with my friends, telling them how much I respected them fearing that it might happen again. My friend’s death traumatized me and changed my life. That’s why I choose to do what want to do and I chose to have fun. I’m very active and want to explore the world as much as possible while I’m still young.

There’s one quote that I heard somewhere, I don’t remember where, that made me change my views of life, it’s “Being alive doesn’t mean you’re living”. It means do everything you can to live fully. Everyone knows that being alive means doing things that make you feel complete. I do everything I can to live fully with both good and bad decisions, all are made for a reason. If I knew I had three to six months to live, I wouldn’t know exactly what to say to everyone in my life. Nothing would be able to express my feelings on that matter except a song I listen to very often called “A Tout le Monde (Set Me Free)” by the American band Megadeth. The song is about the same topic as this, of your last days of life and what would be said. What I would say to everyone would be the chorus of that song. In the song, the first half of the chorus is in French and the second half is in English and it’s “à tout le monde, à tous mes amis, je vous aime, je dois partir, these are the last words I’ll ever speak, and they’ll set me free”. The French verse in English translates into, “To everyone, to all my friends, I love you all, now I must leave”. That would most likely be my speech to everybody. Why that? It is because it has a short, powerful, and straight to the point meaning.
When people talk about death, some people become uncomfortable. For me, that wasn’t the case, I had absolutely no problem writing all of this down. Could it be that I’m finished with what I wanted to do while I’m still young, or I’m just waiting for my time to go? I hope not. I feel there is still much for me to do. Everyone should think that the idea of life is to live it and not think when it will end.