As a child born in 2005, I cannot vouch for the feelings of those who were alive during 1995; even so, I do know how far our society has progressed (and regressed) since that time. 1995 was a year with multiple technological advancements: the widely-used programming language JavaScript was created, Toy Story was released as the first-ever fully computer-animated film, and digital versatile discs — or DVDs — were invented. At the same time, many people lost their loved ones in the Oklahoma City Murrah Building bombing of that year. However, numerous things have changed since then. The United States has learned from both the bombing and the 9/11 attack, so that in this day and age, we are safer from terrorists than ever before. On top of that, technology seemed like it could not get much better than it already was. Yet, this impression was proven to be false.

The sciences have advanced far beyond our imaginations in the past twenty-five years. If there is one thing our society has done right so far, technology is it. Highly functioning smartphones? 2020 has that. Cars with autopilot? 2020 has that too. Along with that, 2019 yielded the first picture of a black hole, something astronomers have been trying to obtain for ages. Further space exploration is being continuously worked towards each day. Intelligence can only be gained from here. Outside of those subjects, our nation’s social awareness has evolved as well. In 2015, same-sex marriage was legalized for all fifty states. Americans can show their identity and sexuality without anxiety in a more accepting and less homophobic society.

Despite the increase in attention to LGBTQ+ rights as well as negative environmental changes, global warming is worsening by the second. Many are making adjustments in their
lifestyle to collaborate towards a common goal: saving our home. Sadly, a great deal of damage has already been done to the Earth; it helps that climate activists are taking a stand against it, though. Recent death rates are not ideal, either. It seems that the number of mass shootings in the US has risen in the past few years, and there has been much controversy over it. With all of the sadness happening in the world, it is easy for all of us to be pessimistic. This raises the question, “How do we, as a community, band together to find solutions and overcome future obstacles?”

All communities start from an individual. I am improving my way of living by giving more to my community through servant leadership and volunteerism. Getting involved in organizations such as my high school’s Key Club has pushed me to do more for others as well as myself. I consider our club’s main purpose to be the key to a better society. Not only do we help out our community, but we also support one another, just like a family. I believe that our club is the prime example of how all groups of people should be: a group filled with more love, more laughter, and more happiness to share with everyone. To improve as a community, we must be open-minded. We must be observant. Overall, we must be kind. In my eyes, the solution to many of the world’s problems can be discovered with great kindness and great dedication.

A community, though, is defined by each person within it. If we do not cooperate, then the strain for environmental action would become null, and the rights that we stand for would have no support. However, communities have always worked together in all sorts of tragedies based on Earth's long history, so I do not expect this to change anytime soon. Although the new decade has just begun, it is difficult for me to imagine what we will have achieved by 2030 if the world as we know it continues to grow faster and faster.