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**Journal 2**

Paulo Coelho is a Brazilian author who was born in 1947 and has written many successful books. Before Coelho had ever in any way focused solely on being an author he did various things such as going to law school, being a director, acting, writing lyrics and being a journalist. He eventually wrote the most successful book in the history of Brazilian literature, *The Alchemist*. However, during Coelho’s early life the Brazilian government was very corrupt, and he wanted to change that so got involved in political activism. Eventually his activism got him thrown in jail and tortured.

Coelho once said, “The world is changed by your example, not by your opinion.” I think this is a pretty insightful quote. This quote is basically saying that the world will not get any better by just giving opinions about what needs to be done and how to fix it. It is a call to action, saying the world can only be changed by the people who want to change it doing it themselves. “Be the change that you want to see” is another popular restatement of this quote.

The thing in life that this quote makes me think of is volunteering and community service. I’ve volunteered a few times with my dad to pick up trash on the side of the road because I hate to see all of that litter. This is just a small example, but there are always a bunch of people who promote volunteering and community service to others but rarely do it themselves. This also applies to the endless amounts of people who have all of these great ideas on politics but never do anything to see all of their thoughts implemented into the real world. Don’t talk about it; just do it!

Works Cited

"Paulo Coelho Biography." *Biography.com*. A&E Television Networks. Web. 15 Oct. 2015. <<http://www.biography.com/people/paulo-coelho-5524#personal-life>>.