The two conflicting ideas that I am exploring are passion and objectivity. Specifically, I am looking at passion for a cause, and the objectivity needed and desired in a situation concerning that cause.

A problem that sometimes occurs is that there are important decisions made concerning a child in foster care, that can take place prematurely concerning a child’s life. Of course, these matters are extremely emotional and volatile at times. Individuals are very passionate about these matters and reason and objectivity are needed but sometimes they are not present at certain times.

I will use the passion for child welfare within the system and the objectivity and reality of a specific situation to elaborate on this. I believe that there needs to be the effort to find a balance between the passion in the situation, and the need to follow the necessary rules of law, and to being objective about what is occurring concerning a situation. An example can be from the position of advocating for a child to return home from being in foster care and the need to be objective concerning the reality of the situation and making sure the conditions are safe for the child to re-enter that family home.

The court system provides checkpoints and the opportunity for many individuals to report on and express their feelings and views concerning a child in foster care. There is testimony provided by many individuals such as: parents, grandparents, other relatives, parent attorneys, child advocate/attorney, social workers, parent aides, therapists, substance abuse counselors, teachers, employers, medical professionals, and the list often continues. Ultimately the Judge makes the determination as to whether or not a child returns home but usually, not without a thorough examination of the specifics of the case. This process helps to provide a balance between passion and objectivity.

A problem that a reasonable person might have that thinks differently than myself could be totally on one side of the situation, let’s say the parents’ position, or the child advocate’s position, as opposed to the State’s children’s department. This happens all of the time. That is one of the main reasons why the Court involvement is necessary.

A point to respect, in my opinion, is the commitment of a party to the case to advocate for their position, after all, we are representing a vulnerable child who needs strong advocacy. The hope is that after all is said and done in each particular case, that solid reasoning and looking out for the best interests of the child will prevail.