



2022 Peer-To-Peer Students Scholarship Application

The Family Counseling Center of Greater Washington

Essay question: The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience? (min. 500 words)

Most people believe success is given by chance, but it truly is given to those who've gone through many hardships. The lessons learned from these hardships will inform them to not only succeed, but to succeed with gratitude from what they've learned. Given this common basis, I could relate this with my past childhood life. With my parents fighting on and off, it was challenging and unmotivating to go to school with this idea of "will my future be alright?" The thought of coming home and worrying about my family situation overrode my mental health, as well as my school life. Comparing my family to other's was common for me. It always looked like their families were perfect. Though I did have many joying memories from my childhood, it will mostly be remembered as a dark and gloomy period.

Visiting my friend was a coping method to escape this reality. Given the circumstances, this friend's family was an ideal family that I would like to have, though it was not possible to have at that time. Watching, observing, and seeing how this family interacted, I was intrigued at how a family could have little to no issues. Wishing this could be my family, every day after school was a playdate at the friend's house. It was a safe haven for a small elementary school student like me. Being an only child, I experienced the emotional trauma alone, watching adults, arguing and acting like teenagers with a temper. Having brother's and sister's seemed so enjoyable. Having a family member that will be by your side always warmed my heart. Since my childhood was always filled with void and arguments, I truly thought the future was hopeless. This long period of 8 years tore down and degraded my emotional health and the thought of social conflicts, concentrating on schoolwork and making friends were troubling. "Will they like my presence?" This was the thought that was in the back of my mind. Though I did make a few friends, I always felt myself there as a mannequin; no life, just dull.

After my parents had divorced and I was moved to a different school for middle school, I realized life is truly unfair. Although, life was unfair I also realized that going through the emotional damage from the past had made me realize the most important thing that I still consider to this day. Life is unfair, but I am not the only one going through it. The realization that other people go through challenges in their lives that are more unbearable had opened up my eyes to different perspectives. Instead of backing away from people, I learned to understand that I don't know their background and what they have went through. With this set of guidelines that I follow, socializing, making friends, and focus for school had dramatically increased. I now enjoy talking with others that I have not met and even ask about their past lives to see if they've been through struggles. I give them the opportunity to let their emotions out and to let them know that I will be here to talk whenever needed.

To this day, even though I still feel the lingering darkness of the past, I see a bright light at the end of the tunnel and see others reaching out for me. Thinking about my past situation, I still cannot believe that I've survived and am still running. My recent successes had resulted from the lessons I've learned from my past. Making friends and school success all link together to the past. To my childhood self, I want to greatly thank you for bearing those many years and making yourself the person you are today.



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