



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)

My challenge was the fear of encountering the unknown. Before my move to Virginia, my childhood was spent in Maryland. A year before the move, my mother had switched her job forcing her to spend 3 hours on her commute to work. We had constantly debated the prospect of moving to a place that would shorten the commute, however, I was reluctant to leave my friends and feared the change it would bring. For over a year, I saw my single mother's hard work and determination and realized the many sacrifices she made to accommodate my lifestyle. I never realized the energy that she put in, behind the scenes, to work her tiring job and raise me. The strain caused her condition to deteriorate; her bright front she put up never changed yet the bags under her eyes grew. Her tireless efforts incited me to agree to the move, the greatest change I had ever experienced. The summer before going to my new school, I worried if I would fit in. I was concerned that others would tease me for how I looked or exclude me from their groups. Luckily, I met many great people and had various supporters who helped me. While it was disheartening to leave behind so many memories, I successfully adjusted to my new environment. The move, which caused me great angst, passed by as another experience and enlightened me on the importance of change as well as the insignificance of the pressures of others. While there were bumps in the road, I learned that change is natural and necessary for humans to grow. Innovations and societal ideals are products of change as they are necessary for one to keep improving. I realized that being conforming to the ideals of others was unnecessary and being myself was a gift in itself. My time alone taught me time management and responsibility. I learned how to be independent; waking up on my own and creating my own schedule. My mother's example of perseverance through change taught me to strive for my goals and beliefs. Her love and kindness taught me selflessness, shaping me to be the person I am today. The hardship allowed me to grow as a friend, daughter, and person. I apply these lessons today. As a member and leader in my community, I manage a tutoring program called HumScouts, am the president of Blue Bird Humanitarian, an organization that strives to give opportunities for community service to students, the Vice President of the Financial Literacy and Business club, a section leader in band, and a tutor at P2P. Overcoming the fear of change, influenced the leadership and mentality I have. I emphasize facing challenges head on and pushing forward in the face of difficulties. I attempt to create an accepting and fun environment where people can try their best and enjoy their work and never forget to put an emphasis on comfort and teamwork. As a younger student, I had an inherit fear of upperclassmen. However, my move gave insight to the importance of confidence and projecting opinions. As a leader, I attempt to accommodate to my values and give others a chance to grow as well as improve myself. By encountering the unknown of meeting new people and a new environment, I strive for my passions, persevering against obstacles and looking for opportunities to become a better person.