

2022 Peer to Peer Students Scholarship Application

Helper Essay - Minsik Choi

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)

One of the biggest challenges that the human race has faced is undeniably COVID-19. The pandemic was a time of severe suffering for every single person in this world, including me. During the COVID pandemic I was once again given the chance to feel how it is hard to adapt to a new environment. The virtual setting was so new to my life and virtual schooling was an overwhelming change for me. The attendance system was new, meeting teachers online for a whole year was new, talking to my friends with the chat feature was new, AP classes were new, online tests were new; everything near me had changed except for myself. I was just the same as I was before the global pandemic which caused me a lot of trouble and struggling during the first few months last year. I had a hard time adjusting to our virtual environment and this cost me a few temporary 'B's and 'C's in my grade book. From being a person who thought that getting 'A's was a definite consequent, receiving lower grades prompted traumatic intellectual damage that felt as if I had sinned. I was falling into this mental-swamp that was seizing me tighter and tighter until the light of escape became very dim. However, I couldn't simply give up and I was convinced that I had to develop and step up as a more mature and responsible person. Afterwards, I constantly mind-controlled myself and had to repeatedly think that I came to a new school, a new setting, and a new place where I had to adapt and could easily adapt as I have done so before. This helped me to stand back up, make new friends, and adapt to a new setting just like I have always smoothly overcome.

Along with once again feeling how hard it is to adapt, I discovered one common problem among students that happened during the pandemic. I learned that it was very easy for a person to become unmotivated. It wasn't just me, but everyone had a hard time adapting

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to that new environment and people became more and more overwhelmed and fatigued about the situation. The longer COVID-19 lasted, the more people became tired and many lost motivation for life. After hearing from every one of my friends that they felt their life was becoming meaningless, I figured out that the existence of friends and people that support me was actually a big part of our life.

Since I had successfully overcome the obstacles during this period, I sincerely wanted to support and encourage those that were falling behind using any method that could be beneficial. While I was searching for opportunities to provide help to our community, I fatefully found this program which made me learn and experience so much that I will carry on for later success in my life. Thanks to this drastically painful period, I learned the importance of the presence of a real, trustworthy friend and that's why I was motivated to become a helper and a new friend to my buddies in the p2p program and welcome them to our society with open arms.