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Prof. Ostrom

Your Name  
Prof Name  
Class Name  
Due Date

English 1101 Co.

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Adapting to New Changes      No fancy formatting for title

While I was nearing the end of high school, my life changed over a phone call. I was sitting at home working on some final assignments for my classes when my mom called home telling my brother and me to be expecting a phone call from some recruiter. I had no idea what to expect from this phone call but I just followed through with it and said I was interested when responding to the recruiters' questions. After this phone call, I started going through the whole process of attempting to join the Marine Corps.

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Throughout my whole time of high school, I had multiple struggles such as a bad work ethic, bad habits, and a gaming addiction. This caused me to perform poorly in my first high school and after two and a half years, it was suggested that I transfer to another school that could give me the opportunity to earn credits quicker. In “The Caged Bird Prevails” (2006), Stephen Hobson speaks about his journey to becoming a nurse. Hobson writes, “However, I realized I wanted more for myself, so I adjusted by dedicating myself to my studies”(3). Hobson decided that he needed to do more so he decided to change and better commit to his studies. Like Hobson, I have also realized that I am not on a good path and must put more effort in if I want to see myself in a good position in the future. Keeping this in mind, I decided to follow up on the process of joining the Marine Corps. However, there were a few ups and downs during this journey. The first thing I had to do was pass both the initial test and physical exam. I had never been a fan of test-taking in my life so when I was told there was an initial test, I was not as

excited about the program anymore. However, after scoring decently (according to the recruiters) on the practice and the actual test, it boosted my confidence and made me want to continue the process.

The next part was attending the training sessions hosted weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays. At this point, my brother and I had both passed the test and the medical exam. The training sessions had a lot of other teenagers like my brother and me which made it very competitive and enjoyable to work out with. At our first training session, it taught me to keep trying even though it was really hard. I hadn't always been the most outgoing person so it was tough to be seen barely being able to keep up. Seeing how much I struggled, I realized I needed a lot more work to catch up to everyone else and this pushed me to not give up as easily. As I kept attending the sessions, I started to enjoy it more as I saw consistent improvements in my capabilities. In "Maybe I could Save Myself By Writing" (2018), José Olivarez describes what he had gone through as a Mexican immigrant from the United States. Olivarez says, "I didn't need answers, but I really wanted to know that my family wasn't alone" (11). Olivarez was looking towards books that related to him so he could make sense of himself. Like Olivarez, I also had a lot of questions and did not have a sense of belonging. I followed through with asking these questions to my recruiter along with making a few friends who were in my shoes at one point. I soon learned that it didn't matter if I couldn't keep up right away because everyone starts at that stage.

With the end of August coming around, my first semester of college was starting. I knew of the struggles that I went through during high school. However, even keeping this in mind, I continued to be easily distracted by anything I could find. It was another rough few starting weeks, but I eventually pushed myself to get a few of my assignments in, so I wouldn't be so

behind in my classes. I also recently learned that I would not be finishing the semester yet because I have to attend boot camp (the final step to becoming a Marine). This could be very beneficial to me because once I am back, I would be a lot more disciplined and have fewer distractions in my life.

In conclusion, I feel that attempting to join the Marine Corps has helped me tremendously both physically and mentally. I will continue to work on myself even after I return from boot camp. I will also continue to keep up for as long as I can before I leave keeping in mind all the mistakes I have made in high school.