My name is Daneilla McEwan and I’m a Biomedical student. I want to become an OB/GYN, I know I’ll be in school for many years, however I think it’s worth it because I have a son that I gave everything up for besides being a doctor. Ever since I was a little girl I often told everyone I’ll be a doctor one day. I was determined to pursue a career in the medical field. It’s funny that I want to become a doctor, even though “I am not a scholar of English or Literature” (Amy Tani). In the medical field theirs a lot of hard terminology that I must remember to heart that’s where literacy comes into play. Literacy means learning how to read, write, understand, interpret, and most of all expression. While growing up I learnt all of those meaning of literacy in every stage of my life.

In Georgetown Guyana, the country which I was born and raised, the people speak a different form/kind of English. Guyanese speak a form of English that’s more broken up, to easily be pronounced, spelt and arranged in a sentence. For instance, American’s would say “the book is over there in the corner”. Guyanese would interpret that sentence like “the book in de corner deh”. That’s how we would talk to each other because the communication is better and faster. I didn’t have a problem with the way I spoke until I came to America. “The country that’s full of opportunities” well so I was told before I left all my friends and family behind. When I came to the United States no one understood the language I used to communicate with others around me, no one understood me apart from the people from my country. High school was even worst, even though the school had a lot of diversity. In terms of a lot kids from the Caribbean that have their own language, culture and race but became Americanized. Making friends was hard for me at the beginning no one understand what I said, their reply would be What? I don’t understand what you’re saying. Can you speak a bit slower? Are you speaking English etc. I was embarrassed at first, wanted to be antisocial to avoid the reactions I got from people.

When Junior year came I realized I’ve changed a lot. I adapted into my new environment. I spoke more fluently and read even more. One of the amazing books I read was called “Americanah by: Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie”. The book is about a girl that departed to America from Africa and left her lover behind, who eventually went to England. They both faced hardship from their separation and new life. They experienced racism for the first time and had trouble finding their identity inside the two foreign countries. Reading this book reminded me of myself and hardship I felt, when I first came to America. Racism was real, I’ve felt what it felt like to be called a nigger, I felt what it was like to be in a room full of white students and get rejected because of my skin color. However, as time went by I started to ignore the names, the dirty eyes, rejections and just focus on becoming a better person and accomplish my goals. This being said, I made a lot of new friends that helped me become the person I am today. Being around my friends made me speak more fluently and educated me on a lot of things, toke me to different places to enjoy the beauty of America. My mom would usually say “show me your company and I will tell you who you are”. In other words, your friends reflect the type of person you are likewise the more you read the more knowledge you have (literacy). That’s were the growth came for me after reading so many books (Americanah, to kill a mocking bird, Animal farm, Hamlet etc). I learnt so many new words, enhanced my way of thinking and knowledge. I was a few steps closer to getting a hang of the pronunciation of medical terminologies. Breaking the words up makes it easier to pronounce and remember them, but as time went by I got better at learning medical terminology and there meaning and functions.

However, during my junior year I joined the national Honor society, took Advance Placement (AP) classes, was always on the golden honor role. I wasn’t the same girl, when I first came to America in terms of being so knowledgeable. I worked really hard to get to where I was and where I’m still at in college. Being more involved in Literacy made my way of thinking extreme. My teachers noticed the change and placed me into a higher/completive class. I was placed into AP English Language Composition and AP World History, later down in the year I took AP literature also.

AP English Language composition was a very hard class, I learned how to write different types of essays in a short period of time, using different types of rhetorical devices. The class was challenging because I had to write 3 essays within 2 hours and the essays had to great (claim, evidence, grammar, structure and etc). That’s where the downfall is in literacy, there’s a right type of literacy and wrong type of literacy depending on your audience. Everyone says literacy is reading and writing but, its more too it. The way in which you speak that’s how you write. How you text (short terms for words/ Abbreviations) is how you write. How you write defines the tone of the story. Tones can be miss interpreted sometimes, not everyone can relate to your story and not feel offended. This being said, literacy is important, and we need to focus more on improving it. I spent a lot of time in High school focusing on my literacy and trying to improve it. My critical thinking played a major role in allowing me to pass the class and AP exam. I was one out of the seven students that passed the exam out of a class of 23. I was so proud of myself and grateful for my teacher for not giving up on me. I gave up on myself so many times because I thought I couldn’t write an essay good enough especially 3 essays in two hours. It was difficult, but I passed it. In addition, I improved my pronunciations of medical terminology and their definitions as a personal goal in 0 perusing my career.

This being said, literacy is learning how to read, write, understand, interpret, and most of all expression. I’ve been through a lot and leant a lot. I’ve learned how to improve my literacy to reach my goals throughout the years of my life. One of my main goal is to become an OB/GYN. I want to make my family proud and most of all myself. I want my son to see/be with me as I walk across the stage with my degree.