Pemba Sherpa

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Assignment- Personal Narrative Essay

The Life Of An Immigrant

Mario Andretti once said, “ A racing car is an animal with a thousand adjustments”. A person’s life can always be challenging, because they have to face great adversity that they might or might not overcome. A leading challenge that I came across was settling in an American Lifestyle. I have yet to experience the full potential of this journey, because I’m still in a learning process. My life as an immigrant has been to overcome several hardships, some of the hardships that have shaped me today are overcoming reality, knowing my surroundings, and adapting to my surrounding.

Coming to America, overcoming reality was very hard for me. As an immigrant, I always imagined America being a heaven, for all lower class families to move up the ladder. Not only did I see hope in America, but also a future for myself, that I had total control over. As, I landed to America, my face lighted up. While on my way from the airport to my Uncle’s house, I saw so many things that I had always imagined. As, soon as I arrived at my Uncle’s house, I just wanted to drop my bag and get out. I wanted to explore the neighborhood, surroundings, and most importantly to see American faces. I saw people from my country that had adjusted to the American lifestyle completely. The way they communicated, ate, behaved, and most importantly the way they engaged shocked me. I was ready to explore every single piece of America and its lifestyle. I was filled with enormous enthusiasm, and could not get enough of anything. A few months later, I was enrolled in an American school. I was very nervous during my first day, but everything went fine as the day progressed. After a few months, I was used to seeing new faces. As time passed I learned that America is truly a place where you can outshine yourself. At the time, I was so happy to know that I could truly conquer all my dreams if I worked hard enough for them. My expectations were not changed, even after I arrived to America. I still truly believe that my passions could become a reality. They are passions that I could grasp into my hand if I choose to. Everyday I live under a conditional American Dream.

Arriving to America was a huge factor, but the other factor was to know my surroundings. In my neighborhood there were many people from the same country as me, so it was easy for me to relate myself with them. Coming to America I was very scared. I always asked to myself how I would make friends. With whom I should be a friend, etc. I was constantly questioning myself because I was feeling so scared, if people would reject me. I did know how to behave socially in front people. I was not used to anything in America, because everything was new. The schools and the schools policies were different from the one’s in my country. I had never seen so many groups of people at once. A challenge for me was to group myself. In which category did I belong? I thought picking a sport to play would help me group myself. Unlike, many of my cousins, I chose swimming. Anyway, it was not only about sports, but also about your taste, language, and behavior. Overcoming social problems at first was a significant load, but in time everything gradually started sinking in. I knew how to react, and potentially how to behave and also adjust.

Adapting to my surrounding was a problem that I could not overcome, and still cannot. I have felt more comfortable with people socially now then I was before when I came to America. Inside me, I still judge myself as an immigrant, because there is always a category that I have yet to overcome. I consider my self to be in a learning process. Always, as I tour places, and get out of New York I feel like I’m in a new place. I have not yet fully adjusted to everybody around me. As I get out of my city, I see different sets of people in different cities that I still do not know how to socialize with yet. Adapting to the country has been very difficult, and I constantly make changes to my habits. Even as transitioning from high school to college my behavior, social habits, and engagement towards my peers has changed. Everyday, as I see new people, I still feel nervous, because I get scared about whether they will reject me.

In conclusion, life as an immigrant can be very frustrating at first. Adapting to your surroundings will definitely help you shape yourself as a person, and also you to fit in to an American lifestyle. Settling in a new country can be very difficult because you have to go through various processes to feel comfortable with your surroundings, and also to the people around you. I still feel that I have a lot to learn before I can fit in to an American lifestyle. Trying to fit in, and also maintaining an American dream can be frustrating, but it will be worth it in time, as you get used to it.