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ENG1101

Unit 1: Education Narrative Essay

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### **Adapting to my new reality.**

Being born into an immigrant family brought certain obstacles for me since I was a first generation child of the family. Growing up my first language was Spanish. That's all my parents knew how to speak , with Spanish I was able to talk with my family members and feel connected with them. But then at the age of four everything changed. When I started school for the first time I realized that speaking Spanish was not the language needed to communicate with the outside world. I was so used to being in my own bubble that when I started school it's like my bubble popped. Going into my first year of school was terrifying. All my teacher spoke to me was English. I didn't understand a single word she was saying to me which caused me to cry any time she would talk to me. I thought that she was yelling at me or that I had done something wrong. I mean that's what I as a topical 4 year old thought. I didn't want to go to school because I felt so out of place and being a shy person also played a huge role in my life. I didn't know how I was going to

do it but I knew that I had to find a way to learn this new language because this was my new reality and the first step to adapt to my “ new life “ was to learn English.

Having to go to school without knowing English felt like I had been thrown into the ocean without knowing how to swim.

Being so young I felt so much pressure because I knew that if I didn't understand the material it was going to be my fault. And the thing about me is that I have always been an extremely shy person. When I was confused I was always too scared to ask questions because I felt like others were going to laugh at me for asking such a dumb question so what I would do is just stay shut but soon that became an issue. I wouldn't know how to do my homework and if I didn't know how to do it , neither did my parents. But they did try to help in any way they could. Google translate became a helpful resource to complete my homework.

We would translate English to Spanish and that's how we would do most of my homework. As I got older we realized that

Google translate was not going to be enough for me to succeed with school so my parents got me a tutor. Have you ever carried a really heavy book bag that you've been waiting to put down?

And when you finally do you feel some type of relief. That's how I felt when I got a tutor for the first time in elementary

school. I was never able to fit in , I didn't have friends to help me out so I was so grateful when she came into my life because I finally felt like I could rely on someone to help me.

I was determined to learn how to speak and write English. I wasn't going to let anything stop me from achieving this goal. I knew that I had to find a way to improve because it was going to be useful in the future. When I got to middle school , I found out that they had a program for students that wanted to improve their English so I decided to join it. I'm so glad I did because by the end of the program I felt so much comfortable with speaking and spelling the language. I felt more open and less scared to interact with others. Being shy stopped me from finding friends. And the only way I've gotten friends is when they come up to me and that's a bad habit I have. In 7th grade this girl named Denise came up to me and we bonded so well that I felt so comfortable around her. Our friendship had become one of the best things that could've happened to me. I no longer felt alone and till this day we're still friends, it's been 6 years of our friendship and counting. She's always been so supportive and her support has helped me through a lot. She saw my struggle and she said to me that " we learn something new everyday and learning is not something that one day stops. " That really stood out to me and

changed the way I view education.

Starting off at a young age with a negative interaction with English made me believe that it was some sort of curse. I felt like it was haunting me. I felt like I was never going to get to the finish line with the language but as Denise said you never actually stop learning in life and that's the beauty of it. It doesn't have a finish line, it's infinite. Thinking this way opened new doors for me. It made me become optimistic with learning new things and my education. I never actually stop speaking my native language because of my parents. Now I know how to speak and write Spanish as well. But as I said before at first I thought it was a curse but soon I came to realize that it had become a blessing knowing both languages , English and Spanish. With this I was able to get my first job. I'm way more comfortable today with the language compared to 10 years ago. Without knowing it this experience in my life had become the biggest lesson I've learned. It doesn't just go with learning a new language, it also applies with learning new things in general in life.

At first I did think I was going to drown because I thought there wasn't anyone around to help me but that wasn't the case , the people that helped me from drowning were my parents ,

tutor , my best friend and my teachers. These people had a really huge impact on my education and who I have become as a person. I started doing things out of my comfort zone even if I was scared. In high school I started interacting with people and by doing this I met 3 of the best girls. It's been 4 years of our friendship. I also learned to be determined , with this I was able to learn how to drive. Overall education is very important and you shouldn't be intimidated by it. You should just go for it because without you knowing it , it could become the best thing you did for yourself and if it didn't turn out , now you know that it wasn't for you and you should try learning something new.