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ENG1101

Unit 1: Education Narrative Essay

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Calculating my struggles

“An Investment in knowledge pays the best interest.”- Benjamin Franklin.

Growing up I've been told that knowledge is the key to success, and pursuing a higher education is the best way to ensure success. From a young age my parents had reinforced the idea that college is the right path for myself and my siblings, it was the best way to make sure we'd all be set up for success. When I was younger I never quite questioned the truth behind the correlation education has with success and wealth. Nevertheless, I did my best to follow my parents' advice on the importance of education.

My mother and father both had first-hand experiences with the objective that education is the key to success. That is because my parents never had the opportunity to get a higher education back in Mexico, it taught them the importance of education. They observed the negative impacts of lack of education on individual opportunities. For that reason, they made sure to be adamant on the importance of education and so their expectations followed me throughout all my different educational stages.

The more and more I allowed myself to feel the pressure from my parents, the more I felt like their expectations were becoming more and more embedded in my daily life. Their expectations are backed up by real facts and can be supported by real-life circumstances. Still, from a young

age being expected to get the highest grades possible and having to spend so much of my free time studying, it felt a little suffocating.

The first situation that comes to mind when I think about my education is when I found myself having a difficult time with learning. In the second grade, I had a lot of trouble learning my multiplication tables. As a result, my parents sat me down and made me hand-write the multiplication tables in a notebook several times, several times a week. It was a foreboding experience that encompassed the beginning of my struggles with math in general.

Math had been the bane of my existence ever since I was in the second grade learning my multiplication tables. There has never been a subject in which my father has been more disappointed in me with my grades. As I moved on from one grade to another I'd get myself mentally ready to give my 110% by focusing and being ready to pay attention, it all amounted to the result of my efforts, the struggles that came with the attempt didn't matter as much as the outcome. My parents just saw the staggering grades that ranged from 60s to 70s, the disappointing look I got as they went down my report card every year in each grade crushed my soul slightly each time. The time and effort I put into the very average grade is outstanding and it has pushed me to keep trying beyond my limits. All I got was a lecture from my father about how I needed to do better. Meanwhile, all the stress and burden that I carried with me festered up to a point that got out of control, all the while the other grades on my report card were in the high 80s into 90s, but that one continuous grade created a growing rift that I have with the subject of math. And every school year It started all over again.

From a firsthand experience with pursuing a higher education, education is important for a person to attempt to obtain. Though the attempt is what counts, the mere attempt someone makes

will never be enough. All my time in school, I've done nothing but put a lot of time and effort into my education, only to find out that it didn't matter how much I tried. The bane of my existence was math, math would forever be my worst-performing subject. Accepting this is easy for me to believe, but for my father, it was a different story. As much as I tried to improve my math grades, there was always room for improvement. The moment I faltered in my attempts, there was always a familiar foreboding feeling that arose.

What are expectations?

Expectations can be the hopes that our parents want for our future selves, at a young age, we are expected to strive for greatness that follows us through our lifetime, allowing us to succeed and reach expectations that are brought upon us at a young age. These expectations are often put upon children first starting to read and write, to be successful in life we are told to get an education, knowledge is power, and the more of it you have, the more success you will allow into your adult life, so from a young age we are expected to be able to meet the requirements that were brainwashed into thinking is the right path for everyone.

Poverty in society is often connected to the lack of education one obtains and most often, the people who have pursued education are the ones that are viewed as successful.

In most places around the world, there are constraints and definite connections that limit people from obtaining an education, low-income families are more often than not, not able to get a higher education. My father grew up in a town in Mexico in the early 80's, which was populated by less than 7,000 people. My father often told me throughout my childhood that he would have stayed in school if it were up to him, but his father had forced him to drop out of high school to get a job, to help provide for his family. Like many others in Mexico, education is a privilege,

and not many kids in Mexico go on to acquire a higher education. As a result of the wealth disparity, it causes a constant unequal distribution of wealth that keeps the working class unable to reach the levels of wealth the rich and powerful have.

Education is proven to be a powerful tool around the world, and that is why many people in this world would do anything and have done everything possible to be able to get themselves or their descendants the freedom to get an education because overall there is much to gain from education.