

Yaheidy Rodriguez

ENG1101

Unit 1: Education Narrative Essay

Word Count:

Date: 10/19/2023

Looking back

How would you feel coming to a country with a different culture and language than yours? Well, it is not easy and more when you come at an early age since you are barely getting used to your own language and country and now you have to “learn” both at the same time. When I first attended to school here in the United States I was in middle school, 6th grade to be more specific, however I started school late around January/February, so that made it more difficult for me since I did not really know anyone, and some of my questions in that moment were like “Who is going to help me?” “What if don't understand the classes?” “What if they ask me something and I don't know what they are saying, or what to respond?” And that is how it was, the what ifs, they were there all the time.

At first, I didn't know how much can a comment of a person affect you and influence you until I came to this country, then I realized that not everyone wants the best for you, and that they definitely won't be there for you either, or have any interest on helping you, I really had to learn that through the hard way. That first year I learned a lot, the good and the bad. I learned that when you do not know something some people that might know it, they will feel superior than you, and they will make sure to let you know it. When I learned these things the hard way, I understood that I was alone, and that needed to use this as an inspiration to grow and learn things by myself. With this inspiration I pushed myself to learn the language, and I ended up learning it round one month, very impressive if you ask me. I didn't learn English just to impress others or

just because I might've gotten laugh at, learned it because I wanted to show not only people but to myself that I can do whatever I want, that I just need to push myself and work for it, because of course you can achieve things by believing, but none of that will matter if you don't put the work and the mentality for it. It was not easy to get here where I am today, I worked a lot and pushed myself a lot even though there were not that many people that believed in me, and me learning English. Americans do not realize how much they can affect a person, and their whole life, even with just a comment. Most of them has had everything since they were born, and do not realize how lucky they are by living here, knowing the language and have many opportunities that us immigrants do not have. We came here to this country to have the opportunities that some people already have since they were born, and I just feel that they don't use those opportunities wisely. We come here to have a better education, to learn the language, to have a better economy, and of course a "better life." but the people that already have those stuff don't appreciate them, and they also feel more superior than those that are looking for those opportunities. It is very sad to see what some people have to go through just to obtain education. In my home country I could say that education was "easy" for me since I understood everything, it was in my main language which made it easier for me to learn, compared to here, that I didn't know the language and that made my experience with education very difficult being here. I remember that feeling of not knowing what to do in any of my classes and not being able to ask for help or nothing.

I have noticed that the differences in cultures also affect the educational experience and the way you learn. Here in the US, you have more opportunities to learn more things not only the "basics," and the teachers and professors have quite diverse ways to teach and at the same time giving their perspective here in the US and their own culture. Coming here teaches you other cultures because something about America is the diverse cultures that are in here, and I think that

does affect your education in a good and bad way. In a good way because you might find people going through the same thing as you are, and they can relate a lot with you and share their own stories and experiences, and also some of them might help you a lot with your learning and give you tips and recommendations on what to do to improve with your English and learning. The bad part is that by having this mix of cultures and languages you might get more confused and not only that but also those people instead of encouraging you to learn more and give you tips, they will just do the opposite because not everyone has the same desire to learn and improve than you.

After overcoming these obstacles of me with education, I felt relieved, and at the end I learned more than just English, I also learned about people's intentions with you, and how sometimes you just have yourself and might have to push and keep going without looking back, and that's what I did, even though I love telling my story to people because I always say that sometimes when you think you're having the worst say or moments there are other people that are going through a more harder time, and through something maybe more "bigger" than yours, and that's why even though you shouldn't look back sometimes is good to see how much you have overcome as a person, what you have learned and how your education has improved.

We will never stop learning, even when you think you might be done, there will always be more, as I said, the bad and the good. I know that myself from those challenging time would be proud of what has happened and how much the things have changed for good even if it was not easy, because that is the plot of education, it isn't easy, but at the end it is worth it, and you will know it as time passes.