

Coming to United States

In search of a better life. I was sixteen years old when I came to Brooklyn, New York. I was lucky to grow up in a close family, until the day my father and my younger sister moved to New York. When I came in search of a better future, my desire to be someone in life rose to heaven. I went through many obstacles, but thanks to that I was able to learn to communicate and understand the English language faster. Sharing with people from the same country motivated me to continue with my goals day by day. The funny thing is that to this day I continue to learn new methods of reading and writing, even new words every time I read something in my college classes.

When I came in search of a better future, my desire to be someone in life rose to heaven. I was able to finish high school in the Dominican Republic at the age of sixteen years old. I was about to begin a college career in my country which I couldn't because we were moving to New York. I thought I was ready to go to college and that all I needed was to learn to speak and write English correctly. That was only possible in my mind because I did not realize that I was too young for college. Every time that someone asks me in what grade are you? they are surprised.

I went through many obstacles, but thanks to that I was able to learn to communicate and understand the English language faster. I had to restart again from

nine grade even when I already finished high school in the Dominican Republic. That was the biggest retracement in my life. Just imagine studying for four years and because I moved to another country is like it did not happen. For me is like they threw four years of my education into the garbage. I remember now, that I remained crying for a week. I wanted to go back to my country. After a few weeks, my motivations were bigger than ever. I decided that I will show them what I am able to do. I say if I was able to graduate at this very young age I can learn English and graduate again with better grades than ever. I knew it was not going to be easy, but I had to do it, otherwise the sacrifice that my father made to bring us to another country, so we can have a better life will be in vain.

Sharing with people from the same country motivated me to continue with my goals day by day. Just imagine being around hundreds of people and not being able to communicate with them, every time I think about it I get a headache. I was lucky because I found a group of Dominicans in my school. Also, the Latino community in my school is huge. I was able to take most of my classes in Spanish at least for the nine grade of high school. The ten grade was a mix between English and Spanish and from the eleven grade onwards all the classes were in English.

I want to give my hundred percent, unfortunately, I was at a disadvantage compared with the people that speak fluent English. For me English was a struggle, the teacher used to show us a picture of an object and then say the name of that specific object. That was the easy part because when it comes to writing it was a nightmare for me. In Spanish, the way you hear the words is the way you write them, in comparison with English for me they do not sound the same way you write them. The method that I

used to learn how to read and write in English was practicing whatever I learned during the day at home over and over until it got into my head. I used to do that every day for the first year of school. In the second year of school, the teacher gave us books to read even when I barely knew a couple of words. I remember that I had to translate ninety percent of the books for the second year of school.

I knew a lot of words by then, but I did not know how to structure them into a sentence correctly. So, I have to utilize my friends a lot. Every time I was around them I asked them questions about words and sentences, which helped me a lot because I was getting ready to have conversations with anybody. Therefore, I started to have friends from other countries and the only way to communicate with each other was through English, which also helps me a lot to improve my level of speaking and communicating with people. I enroll in extracurricular activities like Spanish clubs and Baseball teams likewise push my limitations and be at the same level as others or higher.

In conclusion, this profound experience exposes me to many challenges in life. Moving to a new place can be beautiful, but mine was hard at the beginning for instance starting from zero again is a price that not everyone is willing to pay. Whereas I went through all the obstacles breaking every single one of them, showing those who doubted me what I am capable of. In addition, this has not stopped yet, I have a long way to go and it is called "college" . A new path is forming in my life and with it, many challenges and struggles will show up.

When you expose yourself to new challenges you are literally shaping yourself. I open many doors to education by breaking through many obstacles. I got a full scholarship in a private school in Manhattan, which I rejected because they did not have the major that I want to study. I get to begin my career goal in a decent college. Finally, soon I will accomplish my goal in life. That experience taught me to show my potential no matter what because people judge me on how I look and where you are from. The best filling in the world is to show the judges that they were wrong.