

Topic: Important times in my life

Abstract: My parents are from Durango, Mexico and came to the United States about twenty years ago to have a better life. They want me to succeed in life so they want me to go to school and do good in life. As well do I. one of the happiest moments In my life was when I got my high school diploma. It made me want to more and keep going because it was such a happy time when I got my high school diploma. Now I am going to college and I want to give it my all, to succeed in life. Basketball is something I live for it is one of the things that keeps me going and makes me do better in school.

Key words: Durango, Mexico, fields, college, family, hard work, basketball

I was born in the Hollister, California, almost 18 years ago. Both my parents are from Durango, Mexico. That makes me Mexican American and am very proud of it. I can speak Spanish fluently. My parents came to the United States over 20 years ago and have only been back a few times ever since. My parents obviously came over to work and better their life. My dad has been working all his life in the fields, ever since he was in Mexico. He came over to the United States and continued to work in the fields. But has worked his way up to a better job now. Same with my mother she had to clean the house, and take care of her 5 brothers and her sister at a very young age. My mother came to the United States at a very young age, she was around sixteen or seventeen and had me when she was eighteen. Now my Mom is a house cleaner. All their lives my parents have worked hard to get to where they are today and to give me the opportunity to live a better life and make something of my life. My parents mean everything to me and are a big inspiration on my life. They make me who I am today they raised me this way. And they are the reason I want to do something with my life, they tell me to go to school so I won't have to struggle as they have.

I was born on October 18, 1993 in Hollister, Ca, I am almost 18 years old. All my life I had lived in a small house in Hollister, I grew up in that house and have a lot of memories there. But seven years ago we moved from Hollister to San Juan Bautista. I was a big change for me, just from the moving of houses and moving schools. I had to adjust to the new school and make new friends because I didn't know anybody there. I started going to San Juan school in sixth grade and it was like I had to start over, everything was different in my new school. As the year went along I got used to it and I started making friends. And as time has gone by I have liked living in this house.

Something I remember about the sixth grade was that summer I went to Mexico with my sister and my Mother. The reason we went to Mexico was because my Mom had been sick for about three months because was having problems with her back. It was really sad to see my mom lying in bed for more than three months and I felt so sorry but I couldn't do anything to help her. It was difficult because my mom was not able to do anything like clean the house or even drive. So we decided to go to Mexico to see if the doctors could do something about it. But nothing could be done about it, the doctors said if they operated on her back they would not guarantee that she would be better. But over time she did get better, but she has not completely healed from it and that is why she still gets back pain but not like she did back then. It was the first time I had been to Mexico since I was seven years old. Going to Mexico was definitely more fun than the previous time I had gone. When I went I had so much fun, I had fun playing with my cousins and seeing my grandparents. I felt really free over there just playing outside and having fun, there wasn't a day where we didn't go outside.

But on the way back home we flew from Durango, Mexico to Tijuana, where my

uncle was going to pick us up. But while we were there it was late at night and we were turning into a store and then all of a sudden something had hit us on the side of the van. We did not know where the other car came from. And I clearly remember looking to the side to see if any cars were coming and I did not see anything. We later saw that the car did not have its light on and that's why we had not seen it. Everybody that was in the van was ok but the people in the little car did suffer injuries, but a little girl who was carried by her mother in the passenger seat was in real bad condition and had to be picked up by helicopter. We remained in Tijuana for a few days because we did not have a car to go back in. A few days later we left to Los Angeles in a bus and we were picked up and then we went home.

My freshman year of high school I went to Mexico again, this time with my cousin this time. We drove there and it was a real long ride it took us a day and half. I had just as much fun as the previous time I had gone. I remember just going outside and playing basketball with my uncles, and going with my uncle to the arcade. After I went I definitely wanted to go again because it was so much fun. But I have not gone back since then because of all the things that are happening in Mexico. It is very difficult to go to Mexico right now especially where my parents are from, Durango. It's not that I can't go, it's just that it is dangerous and unsafe to be over there with all the drug cartels. One never knows what can happen. But I do hope to go again because I consider it like as if I am from there and it is just a good time.

I went to Anzar High School from 2007 to 2011 and those years were something I won't forget. I had a lot of memories and I met a lot of good people and also made a lot of friends. It was a good experience and it helped me get ready for college and life. It also

helped me mature as a person. The thing I will remember the most about my high school is playing basketball. Basketball was what motivated me to do good in school because if I did not get good grades I would not be able to play. And it was something I looked forward to every year. Playing basketball there was just an unexplainable feeling that I know I will miss that feeling. Basketball is my life it is something I love to do and is something that made me who I am today. Even though I might not play on a team anymore I will keep loving the game.

This past year I graduated high school and It was a big accomplishment in my life and will never forget it. I feel so proud that I got I high school diploma and it makes me feel like I can do anything I put my mind to, but at the same time I was not satisfied with just a high school I know I can do better and I can go to college and get a degree. I felt like I owed it to my parents to graduate high school because of all they have given me I felt like I had to prove I could do it. I was the fourth of my cousins to get a high school diploma because most of them are in Mexico. It made me feel real proud because I was only the fourth of my family to get a high school diploma. None of my cousins went to college to get a degree and I want to be the first to get a degree. It would mean the world to me if I got a degree, and I know I would make my parents real proud. Going to college is what I am focusing in now I won't have a second chance if I don't do good so right now I have to give it my all. Nothing is more important than getting a degree for me at this pint in my life. Because if I don't get a diploma I will end up with a hard low paying job.

This past summer I learned a lot and had an experience that changed my life forever. I was working in the fields for two months and it was something that was

difficult but I would do it over again. Working in the fields was not easy for me I had never worked, let alone a job like that. I wanted to quit within the first day, but I tried really hard and hung in there for two months. I would wake up at five o'clock in the morning because I had to be where we were working at six. That was one of the worst parts, waking up at five in the morning knowing I had to go to work in the hot sun. I wouldn't get home until 5 o'clock in the afternoon. I didn't have too much spare time because I was tiring and had to get rest for the next day. I remember the first day getting home really tired and not even wanting to go to work the next day, but I had no option. So I got home and ate, then went to bed at seven and was asleep within minutes then my phone rang, and I thought it was already morning then I checked the clock and it was only eight.

I got to try several things while working at first I was in the tomato taking the weeds out or cleaning it. I was hard at first but after doing it everyday it got a lot easier. On my second day we had gone to pick cherries. That was a lot easier than cleaning the tomato, unfortunately it was only for a day because we were just there because the previous day it had rained and where there only for half the day. I was also cleaning bell peppers, as well as onion. Another thing I did was working in vineyard. We were there for about three weeks and we would just maintain the grape vines. Such as lifting up the wire so the vine was held up so it could be easier picking the grapes. We would also take leaves off the grape plants, and we would pull the weeds from under.

I definitely worked hard this summer and it is something I learned from and it helped me realize what I want in life, a job where I would work all day and get paid very little money or simply go to school and have a high paying job that's much easier. It

changed my life and I helped me see how hard my father and mother have been working all their lives and what they been through. As well as seeing how some people work like that but have no other choice but to work their because they are illegal and they do not get enough credit and we do not appreciate what they are doing.