

**Topic:** A better Life in a different country

**Abstract:** At a very young age both of my parents decided they were going to move to the United States. California was now the place they were going to call home. My father and mother have lived here in the U.S. for 21 years now. They have worked real hard to get to where they are now. But their main focus has always been to give my brother and I a better way of life and an education something that they didn't have back home.

**Keywords:** Moving from one place to another, leaving everything behind, their jobs, their children and education

### Living in the Unites States

Leaving everything behind in Mexico was a very difficult decision my parents had to make, and it took a lot of strength for them to not change their minds and stay. When my father first arrived in the U.S. he was living in Washington. He worked for a company picking and packaging apples. He lived there for about a year, while my mother had stayed behind in Mexico. Later that same year after my father had saved up enough money, he decided to go back to Mexico and look for my mother. He figured he had a job and was able to provide so he then asked my mother to marry him. A couple of months later my dad convinced my mom to move to the U.S., this time my father was going to try his luck in California. They arrived in Gilroy, my father found a job in San Martin in a company where flowers were grown. My mom was pregnant with my older brother so she didn't work. She then later began to work for a company in Morgan Hill.

After five years living in California both of my parents were getting home sick, they missed their old friends and especially the family. They decided to stay a couple of more months and see how everything was going and how they felt. But they realized they had children of their own now, they could not be selfish and just think about what they

wanted. Now they had to think about us, they figured that we were still little and even if we went back to Mexico we could still get used to it. After we began to get older my parents began to give it more thought and decided to stay in the U.S., they could not take all these great opportunities away from us.

Since my brother and I began grade school my parents have become a great foundation. They have always motivated us to continue school and to set goal for ourselves, for one day to make something of ourselves. They want us to do the things they were no able to. My parents had to begin working at a very young age. They had to leave school and begin working to help their parents financially. It also was very hard for their parents to keep sending them to school because back then they had to pay in order to attend and not just that but they had to pay for books, their uniform and walk a couple of miles just to get to school. There was not a school bus that would take them back and forth because they didn't live near a town; they lived in a "rancho". Both my parents only finished 8th grade. My parents regret not making an effort to continue school, they believe that if they had tried their lives might have been a little easier.

Here we have all of these great commodities; we don't have to worry about paying for school starting from elementary to high school. We are provided with almost everything, starting from transportation to books and the free meals. There was no way that in Mexico this was going to happen. My parents always say we have all that we need here to be successful. My parents have helped my brothers and me financially. They don't expect for us to pay rents or for utilities. They want us to have what they didn't. My father says we don't have to work a full time job and that as long as we have him and we continue with our studies we don't have to really worry about anything. We do have

part time jobs though, we help out my father financially in whatever we can. My brother and I pay for our school and text books. My mom and dad have always tried to make their children's lives better by providing the best guidance that they can for us but at the same time teach us how to appreciate. They have always told us that nobody is ever going to hand us anything and that we have to work for everything that we desire, and to always be the best that we can.

After 21 years my dad arrived in the U.S. he took it upon himself to begin school once again. He decided to enroll in some classes at Gavilan College, he began by taking some English classes because he wanted to better his pronunciation and his grammar and also other courses that would help him in his current job. He had successfully accomplished something that he had wanted to do for a very long time. Working a full time job and getting out late, he still made it work and accomplished something great. For my brother and I this was a motivation to do better in school and make both of my parents proud, we want their hard work and sacrifice to pay off. My mom has also played a big roll in all of this. She always says that the jobs we have now should only be for "fun," and to always aspire to better for ourselves. They don't want us to work the same kind of harsh jobs they did, they want us to struggle. Both my parents say think big think outside the box and to always be the best at anything that is thrown our ways and it doesn't matter if it is an insignificant task or if it's the biggest one of our lives.

My brothers and I are really proud to have most intelligent and best of all caring parents. They gave up a lot for us; they have guided us to become better people. Both of them having to mature at a very young age, my mom was only 18 and my father was 20 when they first arrived in here in the U.S. they had to make some real grown up

decisions and today all their great parenting and hard work will pay off.