

To The One I Once Before: Personal Narrative

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Abstract

This abstract delves into students' past experiences and future aspirations as they navigate their academic journey to prepare for their careers. The past actions of the beholder often succeed in success. The roots remind oneself to be humble. Everyone is not treated the same; each has their own opportunities. Some may have to work harder than others, but that does not mean those who have it easy have everything. The life we live is up to the individual. The choices made are resolved to commit action. The world is harsh but it's the response that determines the outcome.

Introduction

My name is Luzzitto Tupaz . I was born and raised in the Philippines, a third-world country. My family and I came to the US in 2014. I was a young, innocent kid starting middle school. Coming from another country, the US seemed like the land of opportunity, or so I heard.

My parents make enough money to support a family of five. I have a younger brother and an older sister. We have each other's backs.

Middle School

My siblings and I must enroll in a special English as a Second Language class. Although we can communicate with basic communication skills, the class ensures that we have adequate knowledge of the common language, English. Making friends was difficult, at least for me, because I lacked commonalities with students, such as cultural references. Furthermore, most of the students have friends from their elementary school. Thus, I feel left out. Regardless, I give my best to adapt to a new environment.

As the years progressed, I was able to adapt and make new friends. I also discovered my strengths and weaknesses. My strengths are math and science. I had a Filipino teacher who helped me adjust to classes. My weaknesses lie in social studies and English. We learn about the history of the Philippines. I lack knowledge of US history, thus making me dislike social studies. English, on the other hand, was just difficult because I had to jump from what I knew to what the lesson was about. English classes are a must in the future. Therefore, my long-term goal has become to increase proficiency in English as a language.

My Filipino teacher tasked me with joining a STEM club, which became a starting point for my curiosity. The STEM club was not heavy on teaching through presentation but taught

through interactive activities, one of which was gardening. As a club, we planted tomatoes, eggplant, and so on. Furthermore, we tackled various science fields.

We eventually had to move out of our house to save money. Thus, we had to change schools. My new middle school offers a similar club. One of the club activities was creating a robot with VEX Robotics. My interest in understanding complex structures has expanded. In middle school, I have plenty of free time. Thus, I started to learn web development. I learned the basics of HTML, CSS, and JS through an online course and created projects that demonstrate various effects that can be done on a website, such as the parallax effect, dropdown menus, and so forth. I continued my interest as a hobby, which led me to learn a backend programming language, PHP.

I was amazed by the Internet's working process. I wanted to become the next Mark Zuckerberg. However, that didn't last long, as I became burdened with homework. Regardless, I continued my passion for learning about new technologies.

High School

As I finished middle school, a teacher of mine presented the class with an opportunity to enroll in a high school specialty program. I applied to two out of five. The first was a high school focused on the Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC), and the second was a school focused on leadership in Science and Engineering. I was put on the waiting list for the leadership program. However, I got accepted into the NJROTC-focused high school program. However, by mid-summer, I was allowed to join the leadership program. Thus starting my high school years.

The first year of high school was relatively easy. We had great teachers eager to teach us about their respective fields. The class I mostly enjoyed in my first year was Math, an Algebra II

class. The teacher was funny and enabled us to learn through real-world examples. However, I have a class that brought me out of my comfort zone, a leadership class. The class is focused on bringing students out of their “shells.” This was achieved through presentations and group activities, enabling students to communicate with one another. This improved my version of myself, and I learned more about myself.

I would like to mention another class, an engineering class. This class was heaven for me. I learned new things about engineering, which allowed me to think like an engineer by asking the right questions and problem-solving.

My second year of high school was relatively similar to my first. However, my engineering teacher introduced me to Cyberpatriot, a competition aiming to secure an operating system. This was a new experience for me, which triggered my interest. This was done as an afterschool club. The teacher would go over basic cybersecurity information.

My first cyberpatriot competition was intense and exciting. Each time a vulnerability was patched, a sound would play, incentivizing the team to look for more. My team consisted of people in my grade level. We gave our best but were still beaten and unable to reach the state round with the platinum level. I continued to participate in the cybersecurity club, which became a class. The class was fascinating which allowed me to make my decision for college.

Additionally, at this point, I’m introduced to a new programming language, Python.

By the end of high school, I felt accomplished and confident about college. While waiting for acceptance letters, I studied hard and enjoyed the last days of high school. My long-term goal of improving my English has become adequate for the college level.

College

Starting college was laid back until the end of my first semester. I took advantage of the free time given to me. High school was roughly 8 hours daily, while college classes were significantly less. My action resulted in a subpar grade for one of my classes, dragging my GPA to less than ideal. From then on, I made ways to prevent such events from happening again.

My second year was smooth sailing. I still have my scholarship, and every event, assignment, and project is organized. This was also the time when I realized that I should start thinking about post-graduation. Thus, I taught about a five-year plan after college. The first two years should be focused on attaining a job regardless of the position. I plan on staying with my parents until I can live independently. I aim to continue learning about technology advancements through articles and hands-on practices. The next two would be finding a partner. There's a time and place for everything. I will only settle if I am financially stable. The last year is having fun. After all the hard work, a celebration is a must. This only outlines a simple five-year plan. However, things can change over the course of years. Thus, the plan may change constantly.

I'm currently in my third year. Other than finding a job and finding myself, I don't have much to think about. Life can be simple if not for overthinking. Live the life desired, but face the consequences afterward.

Conclusion

These are my life experiences. Life was never easy. Each challenge is more difficult than the last. Every day, I grow stronger as I overcome challenges with a smile. Personal experiences are different for each person, and so are their challenges. Life is simple and should not be overcomplicated.