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Educational Autobiography

I started school when I was four years old, which put me at the youngest in my class every year. My classmates were also perplexed by the fact that I could speak Russian fluently. I always felt super unique and the slightest bit disconnected from my peers because I came from a family of immigrants. When it came to anything relating to the normal American way of life or culture, I always seemed to not fit in. I never let this small difference about me set me back. Instead, I was motivated to work hard in school and also fall in the seemingly perfect footsteps of my older brother, who also went to the same school as me. School always came extremely natural to me, as I rarely struggled to maintain good grades. Rather, I was always at the top of my class and in the highest reading and math levels. My parents and older brother extremely emphasized the importance of having a solid education and taking every possible opportunity that the school or my extracurricular activities provided me. They constantly reminded me of how fortunate I was to be an American citizen. I took school very seriously and continued to do so till this day.

Knowing now what I do now about socialization, I can see how my own experiences differ from a lot of people my age. Even all my friends have different upbringings than me and have a hard time relating to my educational experience. Something that has always stayed consistent was that I always felt a genuine connection to at least one of my new teachers each

year, and I would never be afraid to go to them for guidance. I was always myself around teachers I felt comfortable with, and as they would get to know me, they would foster my strengths and help me grow as an individual. My most notable teacher that I felt so strongly connected to, and appreciate so much, is my ninth grade public speaking teacher. Mrs. Morgret was an outgoing and goofy woman who could transform into a serious and helpful teacher but never lost her personality along the way. She is without a doubt the person who got me involved in student media, hence my interest to pursue a career in communications, and was always the first person to put me in my place when I was not making good decisions. She is basically the only teacher, both formally and informally, who has impacted me more than anyone else. My own mother always respected her opinion and wanted me to seek out any opportunities she had to offer me. My family measured my education's value and merit in the means of getting good grades, but also they could see me grow as a person and being involved in a number of activities. They are never really worried about me or my grades because they always instilled such strong core values in me so that I would forever understand the importance of a good education along with an ambitious and driven person. They believe, and I also can say that simply having a degree from a good school or straight A's does not define a person. Instead, it is the content of their character and how they apply themselves in all facets of life. Doing good for others is more important than mastering any subject. In my case, the best points were when I would be involved in activities I was super passionate about, while also still succeeded in school. For example, I grew up balancing competitive figure skating before and after school, other sports, and clubs, and still made sure I was on top of my academics. My rewards during the annual senior night highly reflect how honored I was and how hard I worked all my life to achieve those things.

I would strongly say that I took as much out of my education experience as I possibly could have. Yes, sometimes my grades weren't the best in my math class, or perhaps I was unable to fully master physics, but I did learn from these mistakes and grow a lot as a person. Rather than focusing on getting perfect grades, I tried to be well rounded and involved in order to achieve my highest potential. If I could have done anything differently, I would have just paid more attention to school in the years when highschool was becoming overwhelming. I should have focused less on social interactions and fitting in, and more on understanding valuable material that could have helped me more for the future. My worst subjects, math, and science would definitely have improved if I just put in more effort and time.

During my junior year of high school, I lost myself and the values I held closely. My parents became super disappointed in me because I made a mistake they thought I could never do. I realized first hand what having a good education meant because, for a brief period of time, it felt like it had been taken away from me. People looked at me differently than they had before, and my reputation for being a hard-working and dedicated student came under fire. Luckily, I pulled myself out of a deep hole and worked super hard to get myself where I am today. I realized my priorities, and if it were not for my education, I would still be lost today. Overall, school has taught me how to problem-solve and remember important dates for a history exam, but it has also given me so much knowledge for living in the real world and dealing with real issues. I feel so confident in my abilities and as a person because of my education experience. I have met so many amazing and caring people who have helped me blossom into the person I am today. I can only continue to stay focused and motivated during my time here in college, and if I

decide to pursue even higher education, I will always remember my core values and experiences I have gained from school.