

Gabrielle Satumba

10/12/17

Per. 1

PIQ # 5

My dad went into the army when we came to America in 2009. We lived with him for a while, always traveling station to station. Every time I made friends at a new school, I had to face the fact that I'd have to say bye to them. My mom witnessed my brother and I say goodbye to our friends every time we moved away. Everything became temporary to me. Then finally, she made the decision to move to California and permanently settle down. We had to move away, while my dad had to be alone. It was one of the hardest, heart-shattering moments of my life. At the time, I wanted to go to California and finally have friends who I won't have to say goodbye to. My family was broken apart, all for the sake of permanent friends.

Without my dad around, my brother and I had to grow in hopes of being together as a family again. My mom coped with work, she was never home and always at the hospital. My brother was always out or locked in his room. I was left alone. I distanced myself from human contact at school and began to lose my worth ethic. I thought I was all alone, because my best friend was fighting all by himself thousands of miles away. I decided to turn my energy to games, reading, and school. I'd enter all kinds of virtual worlds to escape mine. Reading helped, because barely anyone talked to me inside the house. School became a safe place, for the reason that I made friends and learning became something I truly loved. I could make my dad proud of me from miles away, just by sending him pictures of tests I did well on. Finally, I realized that I never had to say goodbye at all. I could keep in touch with my dad and old friends through

Snapchat, Skype and Instagram, anything that could keep a connection. Even though I moved a lot and said many goodbyes, I also learned how to say hello.

Word Count: 347

PIQ #3

In sixth grade, I had a strict choir teacher in Fort Polk, Louisiana. One year, he made us fundraise by making us sell Christmas gifts. He asked us one by one, "How much did you sell?" No one really showed effort to sell, which in turn made my choir teacher dumbstruck and disappointed. We got a hefty lecture after, and the only thing I took from it was the phrase he kept repeating over and over. "If you want something bad enough, you'll get it." This has stuck with me ever since and it's been my greatest skill of all. Out of tennis, video games, and piano; my perseverance showed the most success.

When I want a good grade on a test, I work hard for it. When I want to keep my relationships, I work hard to stay connected. When I want money from my parents, I work hard to do my chores for it. When I want to move to the next level in a game, I play hard to get there. When I want to win a tennis game, I make sure to do my best. I do my homework, because I don't want to complain about bad grades. Everything I had to work for through determination and sweat. I figured out I could get anything I wanted done through hard work. It was always mind over matter. I dedicate my time to things I truly want bad enough. I accomplished many things with this mindset, such as good grades and more friends. Perseverance is what helps me through every difficulty I've ever faced. Being able to dream and achieving that dream, is what I do best.

Word Count: 282

PIQ #6

In freshman year, I took on one of the most feared classes at Oxnard High School: Biology Honors. All the sophomores said it was a horrifying experience and that taking Biology Honors ruined their GPA. It was quite the opposite of what I expected. The teacher who taught the class became one of my favorite teachers in all 4 years of high school. She taught the class so well, that I became entranced by the subject of Biology. After Biology Honors, I even took AP Biology. I was fascinated by how humans impacted the ecosystem, how our DNA came from our parents, and learning how your blood flows within you. It is exhilarating to me how science can explain what's going on within us. Thus, making my future more clear. I knew I wanted to be in the medical field where I can learn more about the science in human beings.

Every time I went outside I couldn't avoid thinking about how the sun's energy is helping plants with photosynthesis, I couldn't avoid thinking how everyone is making ATP energy. Unfortunately, every time I would hear about how my friend's close relative is dying of cancer. I couldn't think of how science could cure it. So I began to spend my time volunteering at a hospital, to be closer to biology. I became a maternity junior volunteer and I saw how women were treated after labor and watched babies be measured. I enjoyed thinking about how the parent's DNA determined the babies' DNA and the process of meiosis. My interest in Biology grew even more in the hospital, and I loved helping people. However, we didn't do much labs as I would have liked to. I am looking forward to more Biology in college, I couldn't get enough in high school.

Word count: 301

PIQ # 8

Through high school I've kept three things close to mind. One, to have a kind heart. Two, to stand up to people who are doing wrong. Three, to do my best. These pieces of advice help me to stay sane and at peace. I can go to sleep every night, without the guilt of not doing what is right.

Having a kind heart, led me to many friends but also many enemies. There was a boy at my high school who tried everything to make me stop smiling. The first time I tried to talk to him was at his locker alone, I thought he could use a friend. He was mean to me from the start, he basically told me to go away. Everyday I saw him standing at his locker alone, so I didn't leave him alone. It was so hard to have a kind heart, when all he did was bully me and push me away. He would call me names and everyone would think it was just a joke, that I was just being sensitive. Apparently in this day in age, bullying can be considered as comedic. I stayed strong and relied on my heart, I kept being nice to him until he confessed to why he had been bothering me. I found out all his friends were at a different school and he was really mad at the fact his parents sent him to our high school where he had no one. He also thought that I was only talking to him as a joke, a dare to go talk to the weird kid. He realized how I wouldn't budge and concluded that I was being genuine, and he stopped being cruel. We became really good friends and I introduced him to my other friends and he fit right in. I believe having a kind heart, standing up to people, and trying my best are great qualities to spread to the University of California.

Word count : 329