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Mrs. McGee

English I Honors

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Personal Narrative: The struggles in a new country

As I stepped out of RDU International Airport, the cold wind brushed against my body as I took my first view of the United States, various thoughts swarmed around in my mind. Where would I get my education even though I do not know the language well? How will I fit in with people I do not even know? Where would I live? Where will my mom work? My mom, my grandma, and my brother were all happy to finally start a new life in a new country. However, regardless of what was ahead, I was determined to acquire a rock-solid education and a college degree.

The most challenging change was sharing an apartment with five other relatives. Since there were only two bedrooms, there was very little privacy. We stored our things in bags and slept on the couches. My brother already found himself a school that he could easily take a bus to. My grandmother promised to find a school that I would attend, but as weeks passed without enrolling me in school. I started researching options on my own, ultimately enrolling in Apex Elementary School.

Around Christmas, we had finally found a better place to live. I was relieved that I would at least have a little more privacy. We starIted packing up to move from Holly Springs to Apex. While the new apartment was great, the moving process provided to be opposite. Since my family chose to move at night, we were still packing by 3 AM on Christmas Eve. Christmas went by with no gifts and no Christmas tree, and I almost forgot it was a holiday. On top of that, I had to wake up early every morning because my school was farther than usual.

Things kept getting worse. On top of everything, I had chores waiting for me every day when I got home from school. One of my primary duties was doing laundry and washing the dishes during the week for the entire household, making it difficult to manage my schoolwork. Since my mother was unemployed, we could only afford the bare necessities, adding to my stress level. I had to learn how to save money and spend on necessary expenses.

Regardless of all the challenges I experienced after arriving in the United States, I managed to keep my focus on my goal of pursuing an education, thanks to my family’s encouragement. My life struggles certainly taught me valuable skills. I became independent and learned how to manage my time and money. I am proud to go to Apex High School and plan to study computer science in college. I am glad I have been through this journey because I now know that success cannot be achieved without some hard work.

Reflection:

In this assignment, you must describe an experience in your life, in which you showed resilience. For me, it was moving to The United States of America. When I did this assignment, I remembered my goal, to get a college degree and get a good job. I reflected upon my past and reflected my hardships to get here. These hardships help you make better decisions in tough situations. To make my essay better, I would add more emotion. I would also show the perspectives of my parents, siblings, and my grandma.