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Education Essay

School has been a journey for me that has had a profound meaning and impact on my life. My earliest memories of school are hazy at best but include those that most would remember like coloring or swinging from the monkey bars. I loved school because it was simple and it was the first time I got to interact socially with others. Being a shy introverted young boy I had few friends but close ones. To me school was a place where I could create bonds with others and not only learned about subjects like math or science, I also learned about social interaction. My first day at school was the first step in my journey to become the young man I am today.

I began my schooling journey in Colorado as that is where my family was originally from. I was in the PM class in preschool and kindergarten as I wasn't a morning person which still holds true to this day. It's funny because I was suggested by my teachers to be held back from first grade because I couldn't cut in the lines and I was young for my age. Reflecting on that story now I find how amusing that is that something as trivial as my age and cutting paper was something that made me lesser in the eyes of my teachers. I think it was at this point I adopted the underdog attitude and always lived life with a chip on my shoulder. I felt the need to prove myself and to prove to others that I am just as good as anyone else. In my life I feel like this in every aspect of my life. I never take anything for granted and that everything in life had to be earned.

As I moved states from kindergarten to first grade I learned to adjust. The kids in California were different than the ones in Colorado and I don't necessarily mean that in a bad way. The vibe was just different as you would expect in any change of scenery. This was a time where I learned to adapt and change the way I did things. In class I had to learn differently than I did in Colorado. As strange as that sounds it's true. I had to adapt. Adaptation is something I realized was necessary and in order to progress we always must be constantly changing to fit the situation.

My schooling career took another turn when I went from public school to private school going into the fourth grade. I then attended St. Eugene's which is where I met many of my friends that I have today. At this school they took academics far more seriously than at public school. For the first time I actually had to put work into school and try to work hard to achieve high grades. Having to find a work ethic was a little difficult at first since I was so carefree at that age but it was a skill that I carried through all the way to the present day. Much like feeling like I had a chip on my shoulder, working hard from that point on became a part of personality and my identity. I became a person who not only would work hard for their goals but also have the perseverance to see them through.

High school was a whole other beast. This was the big time, the place that would determine my future. I took things so seriously and hardly ever made time for friends and because of that I wasn't that social until junior year. It also happened that junior year was the hardest academic year I have ever had and I challenged myself. I learned the importance of pushing one's limits as that is the only way you can grow. Never become comfortable with who you are and always strive to be better. At the same time I also learned the importance of balance. I was very stressed in my junior year and one of the things that got me through it was my friends.

Whenever I was having a hard time they were the ones who got me through the day. Balance not only in school but in every aspect of my life was a key to my success.

Though my junior year was stressful my senior year was far more difficult. I had to endure stress like no other from sports to college applications to friends. In the end I had to deal with depression which was awful since you feel as though the world is against you. Through it all I learned a lot about myself however. I learned about what I wanted in life and to let go of things that were painful and were holding me back. It was a time of much growth and maturity and I find it as the final transition from the boy I was to the young man I am today.

As I reflect back on these times and realize a lot of things in retrospect. I discovered that I love learning when it isn't just straight from the book but rather a conversation to deeper each other's understanding of something. I discovered that talent can only take you so far and that ultimately the one who will succeed is the one who is willing to work the hardest. I discovered that even though life can take a horrible twist of events and you feel like the world is against you, you will be ok no matter how bad things are now. Most importantly I learned what it is to be a human and the importance of knowing one's self. That it was school has taught me and as bad as times may have gotten, I wouldn't change a thing because it made me the person I am today.