

Personal Statement

An ongoing situation, event or activity that has had a significant influence on my educational development is “the side of the world” that I grew up in. From the time that I was six to thirteen years old, I was in a gang. I was around people who believed in using guns, knives and drugs to solve their problems. Back then I believed that these people were my friends and family. I was wrong! They were killers and abusers who would stop at nothing to see others fail. I realized that this was not how I wanted to live my life. When I asked if I could get out, they said that there were only two ways out, have a gun put to my head or have every bone in my body broken. So I decided to take my own way, which was to run from it all. But, that was only the beginning!

The first challenge I had was simply staying away from the gang. No matter how hard I tried to run, I still had a lot of problems. I was assaulted two times my first year in high school. Both times I had to go to the hospital with severe injuries. I realized I had to persevere and find ways to avoid situations that would put me in dangerous positions. It worked! I started to worry more about school, which helped me through the majority of my problems.

My second challenge was to focus on my education. Because of being assaulted two separate times that year I had really poor attendance in school. I worked on my attendance by consistently showing up to school on time. Being part of a very different school had some influence on this challenge. It meant that I had to learn how to work in a different educational environment. With the help of the teachers and other students in the school I was able to learn the system and how it works. Because of the flexible nature of our school’s curriculum, I was able to get caught up on my work and progress through the program on time.

With my commitment to school the world has opened up for me. One of the subjects that I enjoy the most is writing. In the new school environment I can do as much writing as I want and receive credit for it. Also I can have hands-on

experience in anything that I am interested in doing through internships. I am already in the process of getting an internship with the Federal Way Fire Department and when I turn 18, I'll be eligible to be a Volunteer Fireman for the Des Moines Fire Department. Through education I have realized that I have no limits and I am able to accomplish anything that I set my mind to.