

ESSAY

Growing up in Bari

Growing up in Bari, Italy, I never imagined that I would one day be living in the United States. When my family decided to make the big move for better opportunities, I found myself thrust into a whole new world. As a child, adapting to a new language and culture was difficult enough; I was terrified of change. The idea of leaving my small town in Italy to move to the United States as a teenager seemed

Personal anecdotal information

like an impossible task. However, my parents saw it as a great opportunity for me to learn and grow. The first few months were extremely difficult as I struggled to adjust to the new culture and language. For me, this was compounded by the fact that I didn't have any friends in my new community. I felt isolated and alone, unable to make connections and adjust to my new surroundings. This loneliness ultimately took a toll on my mental health, leading to depression and anxiety. However, I eventually realized that the key to making friends was being

Lessons learned through experiences

vulnerable and open. I started reaching out to classmates and joining clubs, slowly but surely building up my social circle. It was a difficult journey, but finding a support system in my new

environment proved essential for my overall well-being. Moving countries taught me the importance of having strong relationships and how much they can positively impact our mental health.

Eventually, I found solace in joining extracurriculars and making friends with similar interests. Despite initial apprehension, the

Reinforcement of experiences shaping beliefs

growth and independence I gained from overcoming these challenges greatly improved my mental health and confidence. Moving from Bari to the US forced me out of my comfort zone and taught me how to adapt to new environments. This skill will prove invaluable in college and beyond. Ultimately, I am grateful for the experience of immersing myself in a different culture and learning how to navigate the ups and downs that

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come with it. It has made me into a more resilient person, ready for whatever life may throw at me.

Growing up, my mom and dad always emphasized the importance of education. It wasn't until I was older that I realized the true significance behind their words. Both of my parents did not have the opportunity to finish high school, and they worked tirelessly to provide for our family. My mom cleaned office buildings while my dad worked odd jobs in construction.

References to personal experiences

Despite their lack of formal education, they instilled in me a love for learning and a strong work ethic. Seeing them sacrifice so much for our future motivated me to take advantage of every educational opportunity presented to me. Their determination and perseverance helped shape me into the hardworking person I am today. Without their sacrifices and support, I wouldn't be where I am today - about to begin my journey at college and ready for whatever challenges may come my way. This is why my parents will always be my biggest role models and why I will forever be grateful for their unwavering dedication to both my education and personal growth.

My father worked long hours as a construction worker to support our family and give my siblings and me the opportunity to pursue higher education. I witnessed firsthand the sacrifices he made, often eating lunch on the job site or bringing work home at night after a long day on his feet. His dedication taught me what it means to be hardworking and determined to achieve one's goals. I began to take responsibility for helping with chores and studying harder in school to honor his efforts. In high school, as I juggle part-time jobs and internships while maintaining good grades, I often remember my father's example of perseverance and persistence. His struggles have shaped me into the driven and resilient individual I am today; grateful for the chance to receive a quality education that was made possible by his tireless dedication.

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I always saw my parents working tirelessly to provide for our family. We lived in a small one-bedroom house with just a mattress on the floor, but they made sure that we had enough to eat and education opportunities. I was determined to follow in their footsteps and work hard toward success. As a child, I held various odd jobs to contribute financially and gained valuable lessons in responsibility and determination. Watching my parents struggle instilled in me the determination to never give up, even when times were tough. I am grateful for their sacrifices and proud of how far we have come as a family. Through my experiences, I have learned the importance of perseverance and dedication in pursuit of success, values that I hope to continue upholding in college and beyond.

Growing up in a diverse and close-knit family has greatly shaped my personal values and goals. My father acted as the bread of our sandwich, without whom our sandwich – our family - would have no meaningful existence. He worked tirelessly to provide for us and keep us together as a unit. My mother and siblings played important roles as well, with my mother serving as our rock in difficult times and my siblings teaching me the value of perseverance through their challenges. Through the influence of my family, I have learned the importance of hard work and caring for those around me. These values drive me to seek out new challenges and strive for academic excellence in college. Moreover, my desire to help others has also been fostered by my family's unconditional support and love. I am excited for the opportunity to continue developing as an individual and making a positive impact on those around me in a university setting.

Future goals and ambitions

Overall, my family has given me the foundation to become a compassionate and driven young adult, and I look forward to seeing where these qualities will take me in the future.