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Honors 1010: Gateway to University Honors

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Significant Event Lifeline

Event 1

In 2004, I moved from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania which is where I was born to Cincinnati, Ohio. I loved Pittsburgh because I was so “involved” with the city, I lived closer to downtown Pittsburgh than I do now to downtown Cincinnati. So we were always going to events in Pittsburgh and my dad went to both Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh so I was constantly on those campus in Oakland, a town similar to Clifton. When I came to Cincinnati I used to think it was boring and nothing like my birthplace, but I was soon to find out I was wrong. This experience is significant because even though I put it down as a negative since it was sad for me as a little child to leave Pittsburgh, I now know it was for the better and probably why I ended up at the University of Cincinnati. I always wanted to go to Pitt or CMU but I fell in love with UC and I wouldn’t change it for the world. This experience taught me that there’s a reason for everything in life and that whatever ends up happening, it was meant to be.

Event 2

The Libyan Revolution is part of my lifeline because even though both my parents were born in Libya, I never had a very strong connection to my heritage. And seeing my parents constantly mourning and worrying over friends and family in Libya, I started to become more and more aware of my background and learned more about it. I had been to Libya five times before this point but I was so young that I didn’t really remember anything. I would talk to family that lived there every once in a while but it never meant anything to me. But seeing what was happening and knowing that my roots in Libya were making history and overthrowing a regime in front of the whole world almost made me proud in a weird way. And I became more aware of the plight of my family in Libya, becoming more involved with fundraisers and awareness events with my mom. I was able to learn about myself and my background, even though this was a negative event because of the family I lost in the revolution the experience definitely helped me grow.

Event 3

This event is technically my sophomore year football season, but that’s just because the picture I used was one from that year. All throughout high school I became involved with many extra-curriculars and I was always prioritizing different organizations each year, but one thing I always had as a top priority along with academics and family was football. I was a fretful child before high school and I was a little shy (not that much, but I don’t think I was as outgoing as I am now) and always worried about little things and getting stressed about them. Football helped me look at the big picture. I’m a small kid too, and I used to always be wary of being vertically challenged, but I was able to overcome my height and started on the varsity team my junior and senior years. The experience taught me valuable skills in teamwork and leadership that I use to this day. I’m also still friends with the team, the ones who went to UC and those who didn’t and I look forward to keeping that connection for life.

Event 4

The J. Kyle Braid Leadership Foundation is an organization that helps high school student athletes recognized as leaders in the community become better leaders so that they can help students individually and directly. I was one of two boys selected from my high school to go to Colorado and undergo the “training” and it sounds like a serious and stressful experience. But it was probably the most rewarding experience of my life. The ranch is one of the most beautiful places I had ever seen and waking up every morning to see the sun rise over the mountains was so surreal and moving I can’t even describe it. But what the experience helped the most with, was my confidence. I felt like I was finally being recognized for the hard work I was always putting in and now I should give back to the community and my school for the opportunity to go to the ranch.

Event 5

My trip to Libya, a summer ago, was incredibly eye opening and one of the most influential events on my life so far. I was able to visit Libya fairly recently after the revolution which I talked about earlier. The visit was the only time I’ve ever had to really get to know my family in Libya and it was experience that really helped me learn more about myself. I also got much closer to my brothers, especially my older one since he didn’t know any Arabic, I pretty much translated for him for a month. And along with getting closer to my family I was able to be immersed in my cultural background. I also learned the importance of learning about my background and being able to know and be proud of my heritage. Additionally, by going to Libya after the revolution I was able to see the damage of the revolution and the price the people and my family had to pay for freedom, which is just an afterthought for me here in the USA. I realized how lucky am, and I want to be able to give back to the people in Libya one day thanks to the eye opening experience I had.

Event 6

Becoming an uncle is actually more significant, at least to me, than I thought at first. My older brother and I always had a close relationship but when we moved from Pittsburgh, he stayed there to go to college at Robert Morris University. And the distance really took a toll on our relationship/friendship granted now we are much better than a few years ago, but there were times when we wouldn’t even speak to each other for months at a time, not because we were mad at each other but because we were busy with life. The birth of my nephew, Faris, helped me realize that life is more important than the daily tasks we go through. I was forgetting about the little things that make me happy. Family is so important, it might be an afterthought at times but I was able to realize that I have to remember about the people I love. Also, I’ve always felt like I’m really not that grown up and still a child, but having a nephew helped me understand that I have much more responsibilities now and I’ll only be getting more so I need to always keep others in mind before I do anything that I think will only affect me.