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Period 5

English IV

Ms. Brown

College Essay Assignment (Final Draft)

Adversity. The deciding factor that makes or breaks one's career. To begin with, my hardship started in April 2020 when I did not want to work hard, and then I shied away from measuring myself against others who had similar passions to me. When we all got sent home and never came back, I started becoming too realistic, saying things like "that's impossible, no way I can do that" and I was selling myself short of what I am now capable of. For example, I have had dreams of competing against celebrities my age in art competitions, basketball games, and telling stories worthy of winning Oscar Awards and, I had not shown any glimpse of seriousness or action to get myself to something even close to what I would dream about.

And this has already happened years before we got sent home. I had all the goals in my head, but I could never achieve what I was looking for, facing adversity. And with my mission being set in place and my wishes getting granted in the form of a weird COVID year, I finally figured out how to stand out in a place where everyone looks the same.

In addition, I felt like my problem started to look like a bug in a computer or video game that needed to be fixed rather than some emotional or psychological issue. So, I asked myself "where are you and where do you want to be?". There was no definite way to solve this issue since living life does not come with a manual and the only person that could solve this issue was me. In the summer of 2020, I dove into my passions such as playing basketball, writing, and

drawing. And these passions had a positive influence on me. In my free time, I would watch legends like Bruce Lee, Kobe Bryant, and numerous influencers who had similar issues and goals to be better people and not the accomplishments they are known for.

I enjoyed every moment of it. In fact, it's like a YouTube video on loop since I'm still putting arduous work into it. If there's one thing, I would say to the next generation of kids that come after me, is that "when you focus on the past, that's your ego and when you focus on the future, that's your pride talking." And that taught me to be humble, because if a person is good at something and they celebrate that success or think too highly of themselves, usually in the next few days they'll be terrible, and all spontaneity will be gone. From the summer of 2020 till now, I still use these words and values in my daily life. Whether I'm playing basketball or drawing, or drafting essays, I've learned how to be in the moment.

There are sometimes when these words will be tested, for example, being stressed about homework or an upcoming test, or celebrating progress in skills in the game of basketball. That's why I think this type of lifestyle won't end because I can only continue to improve since I'm now a creature of habit. But the most important message is to "always strive to improve by chasing adversity." This experience has taught me to be fearless and to take life one day at a time and if you're worried about making some field you have dreamed to be in, "preparation plus opportunities equates into a huge explosion of success" meaning that if you work hard, smart and consistent, you'll probably fall in between the lines of where you want to be.

And some people always quit what they love doing, because when they have these little successes and when they're happy. But when the necessary work is in front of them, they shy away from adversity. At this point in my life, I would say I've achieved that, because now I'm

just excited about matching myself against others that are as good as me and not worried about the results, and being confident becomes as easy as breathing.

**Prompt:** Tell us your story. What unique opportunities or challenges have you experienced throughout your high school career that have shaped who you are today?