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### Sociological Autobiography

I was born on May, 2nd, 2001 in Colombia, Maryland. I have lived in Maryland since I was born. My mother has ancestry from almost everywhere in the US and Europe, while my father was born to Italian immigrants. My father's parents immigrated from Sicily at the beginning of World War 2, and my grandfather owned a fishing business in Gloucester (my grandmother still has a picture of the newspaper article of their business in her office). Despite my grandfather retiring before I was born (in 2000), the legacy lives on in a lot of the food we eat. I still eat a lot of seafood to this day, and a lot of my family members grew up cooking and working in that industry. My Grandmother currently lives in a condo complex 30 minutes from where they lived when I grew up and moved after my Grandfather died. It was easier to downsize due to that house being very big and my grandmother's eyesight declining. Being immigrants from a country in the middle of WWII, they felt a lot of hardship when moving and they made as much as they could through the fishing business (symbolic interactionist). Being a 3rd generation of Italian immigrants and knowing what my grandparents went through (especially my grandparents teaching my great-grandparents English after only knowing Italian).

Meanwhile, my mother grew up in West Germany after my grandfather was deployed there. Despite not speaking German, my grandparents still look fondly in Germany and still own a lot of German objects. When my mother was around 3, they moved back to the United States and lived in Stevens City, Virginia. My grandparents would live there for the rest of their lives, and we recently sold the house after my grandmother died. The furniture that they had there is

currently being used in our house, and I still own my grandfather's hat, sunglasses, and camera. After returning to the US, my grandfather got a factory job at Crown, cork, and Seal, and would work there until 2003, when my sister was born. He suffered a heart attack in 1990 which forced him to quit smoking. He died from a stroke in 2019. My grandmother worked as a nurse and she retired when my Mother was born. She and my grandfather moved to Stephens City Virginia in 1968 and lived there for the next 50 years. My grandmother died from liver failure in 2020. My Mother graduated from High School and went to Virginia Tech and my father graduated from high school and went to Drexel University. They met at APL where my parents worked and married in 1996. They lived in a small 2-bedroom condo until 2000 when they moved into our current home. When I was born, my mother quit her APL job to focus on my siblings and me. She became a treasurer for a Non-Profit until 2021 when she got breast cancer. She returned in 2022 when her cancer subsided. She quit in 2024 due to stress being worse and my father's APL job getting a promotion (**conflict theory** with her boss having a bigger foothold of the profits and my mother dealing with more stress for less money). My parents had me in 2001. I am the oldest of 3 siblings. I have 2 younger sisters, one at the University of Maryland and one still in High School. My middle sister is 2 years younger than me and my youngest sister is 6 years younger than me. I also have 2 cats that we adopted in 2015. They were born outside my church and were fostered by the youth coordinator.

I have lived in Ellicott City my entire life (23 years), and I went to all 3 levels of school in the public school system. I went to Centennial Lane in 2006, Burleigh Manor in 2012, and Centennial High School in 2016. I graduated from Centennial High School in 2019. After I graduated, I wasn't sure what I was going to do after high school. I went to HCC in the fall of

2019 with a degree in General education, but I wasn't sure after that. I thought of a couple of career options including Biology, earth science, and history, but nothing seemed to interest me. I struggled my first semester and barely passed it with average grades. It didn't help that the spring semester was canceled because of the coronavirus. When the pandemic happened, a friend of mine installed a camera and microphone in the church, and I helped run the equipment every Sunday to help people who couldn't make it watch online. Growing up, I wasn't religious besides church, even then it wasn't much of my life. After my grandparents died, I felt closer to God and played "Amazing Grace" at her funeral. After that, I felt better about religion. The only downside is the Evangelical Christians, who have homophobic, transphobic, and racist viewpoints. I try not to associate with those growing up in a liberal church and learning that God and Jesus love everyone, despite their differences. As a result, I feel comfortable being religious, while not associating with those types of people (ROLE STRAIN). When working with the audio/video equipment at the church, I enjoy running with that type of equipment. I was able to learn a lot from that experience, and when I returned to HCC in the fall of 2021, I changed my mind and went with the AVMP major. I plan to graduate with it and head to my 4-year school in Spring 2025. It was an eye-opening experience for me and helped me realize my full potential. Even in high school, I wasn't motivated to do much school work and as a result, I was a B-C average student most of the time in High School, and when I started my freshman year of college, it was more of the same situation. I took classes in High school and my freshman year of college to help with schoolwork, but I still didn't care about it until the pandemic hit and I realized that it was important to try in school. Trying and failing is better than quitting in my opinion, because at least I can say that I tried to do it and be satisfied with it, than failing because of a lack of effort. I am satisfied with how my college experience has gone so far, and if I have

any regrets is that I wish that I joined more extracurricular activities before now. I didn't think about any clubs until I got my license. I look forward to the next chapter in my life whether it's starting my 4 year right after graduation or I take a year off for an internship. I want to keep working on my degree so that I don't lose sight of my goal in life. Having a goal is very important to me because I want to benefit not only myself but society as a whole.

I grew up more liberal-leaning and still lean toward that side of the spectrum to this day, especially when it comes to issues like abortion, racism, homophobia, or transphobia. I have many friends and family who have dealt with these political issues in the past, and knowing their stories, helps me to connect with them. Despite being a cis-straight Christian male, I have sympathy for the others in my life who go through struggles that are worse than mine any day. This can include poverty (help with the church's food bank that they give to elementary school students), race/religion movements (A BLM flag outside during that movement), and reformations among other things. Growing up here in Maryland, I have met people of different ages, genders, sexualities, religions, beliefs, and ethnicities, and every person I met I can befriend. I believe that any 2 people in the world can and do have more alike than separate from each other. Whether it's a group of people at a stadium, a crowd at an airport, the park across the street, or even the mall people can meet and socialize a lot easier than they realize. Being a sports fan also helped me realize this. I've met so many people at NFL and MLB games who come from different backgrounds, but come together for events (Conventional crowd behavior). This boils down to my family as well. Both my grandfather and my father are football fans (Redskins and Eagles respectively), and before he died, my grandfather wanted to go to a Ravens game with me in Baltimore. I also am an Orioles fan, and my family are big baseball fans. Also with

the team itself, there are a bunch of cultures and ethnicities on the team as well. Anthony Santander is from Venezuela, Ramon Urias is from Mexico, and Jorge Mateo is from the DR. Despite their differences, the team itself has insane chemistry and inspired me to study the different cultures on the team and see their backgrounds (Sociological imagination).