

Freedom Writers

At a young age I was destined to compete in the 2016 Olympic as I was naturally talented in gymnastics. However my life would change in one instant when I was diagnosed with juvenile rheumatoid arthritis at the age of six. From that point I had to give up on gymnastics as I could no longer physically perform. Having to attend constant doctor visits and take daily medications, my struggle is still prominent to this day. In fact this long endeavor has brought me an experience from a different perspective, from the eyes of those who are physically disabled. In other words, not being able to compete in sports until my ninth grade year was something I longed for and was gratefully able to do so starting with soccer beginning my freshman year. Eventually I would go on to do cross country my next three years as the team was something I really enjoyed. Not only has my life been changed, but it has also led me to new ways of thinking not only for myself but life as whole. That is to say the option to give up is never the answer speaking as when all odds are turned against you there is always a sliver of hope. Fortunately my sliver of hope was the ability to compete in sports when I was unable to do so for almost six years. With many goals still to set and achieve, I believe that the greatest struggle is a test to finish them. My way of thinking has led me to believe that the moment you enter life or are born into this world you are given a name and reason for living. That name is what sticks with you all your life and never changes unless you yourself change it. Where I am going with this is that your name gives you an identity, a person of equal value to others around you. You may not be in a position that others consider you valuable but everybody has an equal opportunity to achieve that value. Barack Obama, Steve Jobs, Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, and many more are all worldly figures, names held in high regard only because of the duties they performed and the struggles that came with achieving those duties. In other words your chances of becoming a person of value is as equal as them. On the other hand if you begin to think narrowly then you won't allow yourself to be exposed new ideas and experiences. If I kept thinking that there was no hope left for me because I could no longer perform physically and also lost my abilities that which I was talented at then I would be a different person than how I am today. However with goals to set there is a new path to pave and whole new objective to accomplish. If I were to reflect on a person who is similarly relatable to me in way, it would be Erin Gruwell an English teacher at Woodrow Wilson Classical High School in Long Beach, California. Portrayed in the movie "Freedom Writers" based off a true story among a group of students who grew with lives filled with hardships. Whether it be robbing a convenient store, or tagging the side of a building with graffiti, every student experienced the gang life. To get back to the point, Erin Gruwell was a teacher who lived swell economically and had experienced life from a different angle. However her goal was never to just become a teacher, it was to become someone of value a person who makes a difference in people's lives. Her goal was to give her

students a life, an opportunity to see the world from a different perspective away from the gang life. Gruwell instilled in her students that opportunities always give rise, but only to those can put the hard work in to accomplish them. That passion she resonates is the similar passion that I share with her. In other words, my grades in school reflect my hard work, which is for the reason to go to college. For this reason, I am hoping to fulfill the desires that my mom wishes which is to live a significant and enjoyable life, one without worries or issues. Luckily I am happy to say that I have received college acceptance letters and are one step closer to achieving my desired goal. In the case of the students under Ms. Gruwell, their hardships however are significantly different from mine in a sense that they experienced something that I will never experience or at the least never get to. The reason I say this is because, in my case I was fortunate enough to be born into a family that is living well and prosper. Many teachers these day do not understand the problems of their students and overload them with unnecessary stress along with what they are facing. I believe that if we were able to explain our problems to a teacher they would understand. But students however have no obligation to explain our problems to the teachers nor do we want to. The is for the simple reason that the teachers we meet are only temporary, with a sole purpose of propelling us through life with an education. Altogether life is struggle from the day we encountered our first problem which leads to others. But how you perceive that problem is up to you and the only to solve the problem is if you see through it to the end.