**TRULY, I HAVE MADE IT**

My heart pounded with a mixture of anticipation and fear as I entered the classroom. It was daunting to think of teaching practice over the holidays for someone who had always dreaded public speaking. The thought that I would stumble, be judged, or fail to involve them kept on occupying my mind.

However, as I stood before the class with a lesson plan and newly found determination something inside of me changed. They looked at me with wide eyes, expectant, and curious; I realized that this was a rare opportunity to touch their lives forever. Every day, I took in a deep breath and moved beyond my doubts replacing it with enthusiasm for the subject matter.

I started from scratch by using some easy exercises in order to break ice and connect with students. Gradually, however steadily though not fast enough I felt my voice becoming stronger as well as more confident about being able to take their attention and explaining difficult ideas in ways they could relate to them. The more often that happened to me, the more frequently did I discover an unknown passion towards teaching within myself.  
  
Over time, I saw my students and me transform. My former familiar terror about public speaking began to diminish and was supplanted by a feeling of empowerment and pride. My words and actions could motivate these young minds. They caused curiosity in them.

Then one day when I stood before the class, teaching with confidence, knowing that fear of speaking in public was no longer part of me. At that moment, amidst the glowing eyes and happy faces of my students, I felt overwhelmed by gratitude and joy inside me. What had really happened then is that I had met some form of adversity, removed myself from my comfort zone and emerged stronger.

Truly, I have made it. My personal fears were overcame and I also experienced a new sense of completion and determination as a result of the transformative ability for teaching. Looking at the lot of people before me, I was sure that the journey was just starting with more chances for change and development. This led to my never-ending appreciation.  
  
  
By Daniel Ofori