

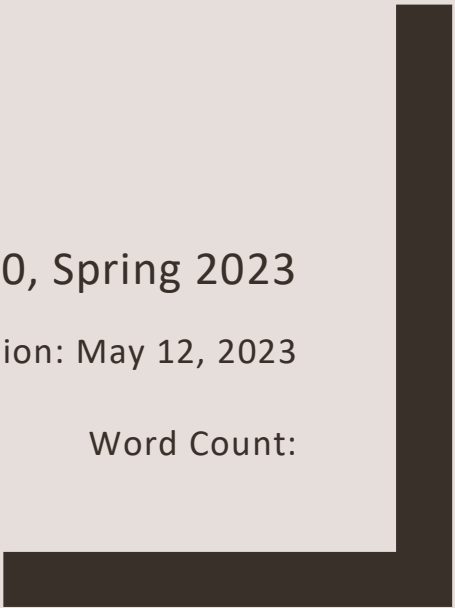
Elizabeth Gavino

PERSONAL STATEMENT

ENTP 4500, Spring 2023

Projected Graduation: May 12, 2023

Word Count:



As a young child, my parents would always share their stories of coming to this country and sharing the difficulties that they encountered. My mother came to the United States at a pretty young age. She was able to complete her middle school and high school education and although it seems she had an easy upbringing, she was also one out of ten siblings. Her father was not in her life and my grandmother was diagnosed with a brain tumor. The brain tumor was so severe that she was only given 5 years of life.

My mother became the head of the household juggling school, cooking, cleaning, managing her younger siblings, and taking care of her mother. This caused my mother to grow up faster and become hyper-focused on making sure everything was completed a certain way and was always the main organizer of the family. My grandmother went on to live for twenty-five years with her brain tumor and the aid of my mother and aunt.

My father on the other hand was handed over at a young age to his very strict grandparents who then put him to work at the age of thirteen. He did not have the opportunity to complete middle school or high school. My father comes from an indigenous town where he was mainly working in fields and working with cattle or anything that was asked of him. Once he turned twenty-three, he started his dangerous journey to the United States with his older brother and landed in California.

He struggled to find a place to live and had to separate from his brother and would end up working in construction and renting to sleep on a coworker's couch. There were nights when food was not an option, or the only thing available would be a tortilla with lime and salt and that would be the only thing to keep him going through the night. My dad has achieved the

most in life by nurturing relationships with those who gave him the opportunity to grow in life. I know that the amazing family that let him and my uncle rent out their garage is a family we still go visit today and are able to remember the many stories they have made together.

Hearing the struggles that my parents faced and being able to experience the great success they have accomplished, allows me to really push myself to work harder to show my parents that appreciation for everything they had to encounter. These stories can be applied to my life as a representation of where my family came from, along with being able to acknowledge the great opportunities I have been given due to their sacrifices. I have the honor of being a first-generation college graduate in my family with the support of my parents.

My parents have always told me to go after what I wanted in life and to explore the opportunities that were presented to me. Their stories remind me that although I may encounter what I would think is a huge roadblock on my road to success, I will be able to overcome it and come out stronger.

The story of the upbringing my parents had encourages me to achieve the most I can in this lifetime and to give back to them. My parents have the dream of being able to retire and build a home in my father's hometown along with my mother's hometown. I want them to be able to leave and enjoy their time knowing that they gave me and my siblings and the greatest amount of support and encouragement to pursue our dreams. Their story will always have an impact on how I pursue problems thrown at me and the roadblocks I may encounter.

Going into this crazy world after college, I will be able to use this mindset that was shown to me through my parent's story to really push forward no matter what is thrown at me. The importance of making the best of any situation and coming out on top is what we should strive to achieve. I would like to be able to share these stories and tell my own to future generations.