Educational Biography

Elementary-Middle School – I have always responded best to teachers who were able to grab my attention. These methods could have been through silly demeanors, songs, games, etc.

Although I have not felt like I made a personal connection with any teachers from my younger years, there was always a strong teacher pushing me forward and making me strive to do my best- my mother.

I was always the kid who was never under achieving or highly over achieving, so I usually was forgotten by my teachers while they attended to kids at both far ends of the spectrum.

In middle school, my parents went through a nasty divorce many of my peers and teachers knew about through my small town. I began to face a downward slope and was not performing to the same extent I used to in school.

I feel asleep in class every day, multiple times a day. I developed a serious and very noticeable eating disorder and these behaviors continued from 8th grade to my senior year of high school. My teachers saw me as lazy and disrespectful. In reality, I could not keep my eyes open because I was malnourished and spent every late night with my mind consumed with the burdens of my home life. I was taken out of school some days to attend court hearings, lived out of a suitcase changing houses every 2 days, and I attended court mandated therapy routinely my senior year. Some days, I would come to school without my book or homework because it had been left at a house I no longer had access to for that time of the week. This only made my teachers angry and continue to think of me as unmotivated.

My teachers had known of some of the struggles of my home life and had watched first hand as I deteriorated through high school. None of my teachers took the time to ask me about myself or tried to make a deeper connection with me. I in many ways felt like I was done a disservice by my teachers.

When it came time for me to apply to schools, none of my teachers cared to help me prepare. My high school guidance counselor even ended our college counseling meeting early to be able to spend more time with a higher achieving student. This in turn made me unmotivated to discover colleges.

I applied to Temple University on a whim because a friend told me to in passing in the hallway one day. I only applied to Temple and only visited Temple.

My only outlet, the only thing that kept me sane in high school, was playing for my school volleyball team. My Coach, Jackie Miller, was the first educator to ever truly make an effort to connect with me. She was my motivator, but also provided me with tough love. She gave me opportunities both on the volleyball team and outside of it. She made an effort to understand me and to raise me up. She showed me that I was someone to be proud of and the things I could do were limitless. She still keeps up with me to this day. – this is the type of educator I want to be, although she did not teach at my school and was never a teacher.

I want to be a teacher to shield my kids from having a bad overall experience with not feeling support within their school system. I have faced my own struggles, but I also acknowledge that many others face much greater struggles than me. Knowing how I felt while in school, I can only imagine how other students must feel while simultaneously being plagued with hardships I will never be able to fully understand or feel.