

Paragraph statement:

This scholarship would help me because it would provide the financial support I need to achieve my dreams. I was brought to the United States due to my illness and was miraculously saved. I come from a poor family. My father was an agricultural worker but passed away on September of last year while working in the fields. Ever since my mother has been taking care of me and my 7 siblings. 5 are in Mexico, but here in the United States I live with my two younger siblings. My mother makes around 200 dollars a week, which is enough for the rent and bills. While I do qualify for financial aid, it does not cover everything. The money from the scholarship would help me buy books and a laptop. My old one finally gave out and I don't have the money to buy a new one. My greatest fear is that I will have to drop out because of the cost to attend. I hope that this scholarship keeps my fear at bay. Like I will state in my essay, my dream is to help other who are faced with difficult situation. I plan to do this as a doctor and save lives, just like mine was saved, but also as an inspiration. I want people to see my life and realize that even when life seems against you, it is up to you to make the most of a situation and come out victorious. I can assure you that this scholarship will help me be one step closer to achieving my dream. Thank You!

I was born in Mexico, but I was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic leukemia at the age of 1 and 8 months. While in Mexico the doctors were unable to do anything to cure me. I come from a small and poor town, where medical help is limited. The day my parents took me to the medical center (hours away) I was returned home to die. The doctors said I was terminally ill and told my parents to take me home for there was nothing they could do. However my parents did

not stop there. My family from the United States was visiting and they decided that no matter what happened they were not going to let me die. That same day two of my cousins took me from my small town and to the border and brought me over to the United States. Along the way I kept passing out, my cousin would hold me and try to wake me, but even she thought I had passed away. When we finally arrived to Children's Hospital the doctors informed my family that they would do everything they could, but there was little hope I would make it. Not only did I have cancer but I had a severe case of bronchitis and my kidneys were failing. I was immediately placed in intensive care and a few weeks later my parents arrived. However in order to help me they made the greatest sacrifice any parent could make - abandoning their children. They left five of my siblings in Mexico so that they could come and be by my side. I made a miraculous recovery, even the doctors could not believe it and here I am 16 years later enrolled into one of the best universities in CA- UCLA.

My leukemia has affected my education in that it has helped advance my education and shape me into a stronger person. Because of my leukemia I have been granted access to opportunities that otherwise would not have been provided. Here in the United States I have the opportunity to succeed which would not have been possible in the little town I was born in. In my town very few people are educated and everyone seems to be destined to live in poverty. While we do not have much here, my education has prepared me to become someone in life.

After I was released from the hospital the doctors told my parents that there was little hope I would succeed academically. My parents were told that it would be better if I was homeschooled, but they refused to accept that. Like them I refused to let such tragic start ruin the

rest of my life. I swore I would make the most of my tragic situation, which I have been doing to this day.

During my high school career I realized that I wanted to become a doctor so that I could help low income people like me and to give back to the wonderful community that saved my life. In order to do that I challenged myself to the max, I took 12 out of the 15 AP classes offered at my school. Before my father passed away on September 21, 2015 I would work with him to help make ends meet. All this to ensure a better life for me, my family, and ultimately for other families. Despite being undocumented and low income I surpassed my classmates academically. I am proof that the only thing that can stop someone is themselves. I am demonstrating that being undocumented or low income doesn't mean that you are trash, despite what most people think. I graduated in the top .02% of my class. My career goal is to become a doctor and set up my own practice where I can offer people of low income medical attention at little to no cost. However my life goal is to become an inspiration for others. I want other people to see my story and realize that anything is truly possible if you set your mind to it. I want other undocumented students to realize that just because they are undocumented it does not mean they are destined for failure. I want people to see that being low income and undocumented doesn't make you less of a person, but instead it makes you a greater person. I want people to see that even if it seems like life is against you, you must make the most of the situation and turn it to your favor. When people hear my story I want them to see their dreams and realize that they can take an opportunity and turn it into reality.

This spring I was accepted into UCLA with a major in biochemistry. I know that if it had not been for my hard work and dedication I would have have been accepted. I also know that if it

had not been for my illness, I may not be the person I am today. My illness opened a world of pain and suffering, but it transformed me into someone who doesn't know when to quit. I am not thankful that I got cancer, but thankful for what it has transformed me into. Thanks to my illness I can say that I am on my way to helping myself, my family, and my community. Thanks to it I am ready to take on anything because after surviving such illness, there is nothing to fear but fear itself. Whenever I get tired or frustrated I remember my childhood filled with pain and suffering and I remind myself that if I could survive that, then I can take on anything. My illness, while gone, has left scars that remind me that hard situations are everywhere, but we must not give up. My illness has helped advance my education as well as myself. It has made me a warrior who will stop at nothing to achieve my dream and inspire others along the way.