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UGS 2001: Humanities I

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“Something, somewhere, knows what’s best for me and promises to keep sending me people and experiences to light my way as long as I live in gratitude and keep paying attention to the signs.” ― [Jennifer Elisabeth](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/8346165.Jennifer_Elisabeth)

II agree to the idea that education doesn’’t so much as influence my life as my life has influenced my education. T The influence my life has had on my education has been made in so many different ways and it's a blessing to be able to say that. II owe a lot of what II know to my family.

MMy family are CColombian immigrants so that culture was strong and “fresh” enough to carry on to me even here in the US. I In regards to an academic setting CColombia has a cultural strive towards education and social status is very important in CColombian society. B Being the only US born in my entire family, II had more opportunities and it made them verbally and nonverbally tell me they expected more out of me than any other family member.

MMy mother began to be the strongest presence behind my education since my time in preschool. She is always thinking ahead and after coming to the knowledge that the majority of the day I was in preschool was spent singing, she took matters into her own hands. She prepared me for kindergarten by having me practice my EEnglish with my brother, learn the alphabet, reading simple words and practicing my handwriting. II would fill pages and pages with repeating words to make my handwriting smooth and legible. IIf my mother didn’’t like the way it looked II would have to write the same letter or word until she did. I I would hate it because my hand would get tired but at the same II wanted good handwriting, it looked pretty, so II appreciated it. S She would tell me, “yo no quiero que crezcas y tengas dificultad con profesores por que no pueden leer tu letra o que no puedas defenderte en cualquier de los dos idiomas”. M My mother wanted me to have the minimum of difficulties life could throw at me. T Throughout my childhood she kept saying that to me and later II came to the realization that a lot of struggles can be avoided with a little hard work.

MMy mother use to be a teacher in Colombia and during my childhood she would religiously try and have me read and write in SSpanish whether that was writing out the grocery list in SSpanish or checking out SSpanish books from the library. L Later on when II was a little older she’’d have me practice translating. M My mother wanted me to be able to switch from language to language with ease. I’ I’d go everywhere with her and if there were misunderstandings with employees who could only speak EEnglish that would be a way for me to practice. I It was through these experiences that II came to truly appreciate languages. N Not just SSpanish and EEnglish but all the ones the world had to offer. IIt seemed like such a powerful tool and so beautiful to allow someone to communicate with others all around and carry on an entire culture whenever you spoke that certain language.

OOne of the books my mother would have me read with her since II was very young was the Bible. H Here came in the beginning of my spiritual education, a strong and sweet memory I’I’ll always have of my mother. E Every night before II fell asleep she’’d come in my bed with me, read a little bit from the Bible, and say a prayer with me. S She’’d usually stay next to me for most to all of the night even though II only had a twin sized bed. S Sometimes I’I’d wake up and see she had made a bed for herself at some point on the floor, yet II never questioned why she stayed despite the uncomfortable circumstance. II loved the moments she and II had before going to bed; it was something fun and made it easier to fall asleep after having said a prayer and still feel her warmth next to me as II began to drift off into sleep. I I never knew until II was older that the reason she’’d stay the night and even choose to sleep on the floor could have been not wanting to be with my father because of their marital problems. T They would argue but since it was never in a violent fashion to my eyes II had always just giggled the situation away. M My parents marriage later became the foundation to slowly be molded by my experiences towards my knowledge about romantic relationships. However, continuing my spiritual education, as II said before I’I’d usually go everywhere with my mother