

Personal statement

My name is Steven Gutierrez and I am currently 17 years old. I was born in Ventura County, California and right after my family moved to Los Angeles, California. My childhood wasn't the greatest. My parents separated when I was nine years old and that was hard because I would only see him a few days a month. Ever since they separated we stopped doing things that I liked, for example traveling. It's been nine years that I had last went out of the country or state. I've always thought how it would be like to leave the country again, to visit somewhere new again but I know that it won't happen anytime soon so I try not to think about it.

Right after my parents separated my mom found someone else and my dad did as well. During my childhood I loved playing video games because it distracted me from the real world. Video games would be my happiness until we got evicted and then kicked out of our home when I was 15 due to the owner not paying the rent. It was hard because my mom was pregnant at the time and my step dad had just gotten fired from his job. We were homeless for about a week until my stepdads mom told us that we could move in with her and so we did. To this day we still share a two bedroom apartment with her. Her family lives of three lives in one room while our family of six live together in the other room.

Ever since we got evicted I stopped playing video games and started skateboarding because I didn't want to be at home all day being stuck in the small room with everyone else. To this day we still can't move out and find our own place. So I would always be in the streets and I didn't take school serious. I went from being stuck to a world of video games to being stuck to the real world. Skateboarding helped me meet new people from different cultures and I got to learn different people's stories from their lives. Skateboarding was my way of getting my mind off things at the time.

I would tell myself that school was just a waste of time. I told myself that I could just join the military after because I didn't really have nothing to live for. But it was until the second semester of the eleventh grade that I finally woke up, thanks to my girlfriend. She taught me so much, she taught me that there's a whole world to explore and live for to see. She's the reason why now I want to go to college. She had changed my life and I know that i've changed hers too. I stopped being in the streets a lot and now instead of being out late at night with my friends I am with her most of the time and it's just wonderful.

My experience growing up affected me in all type of ways but it has also made me the person I am today. Things happen for a reason. Life isn't perfect, not everything is but we have to enjoy what we have.