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Mr. Schoenborn

AP Literature

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Senior Project Reflection

I was approached by my friends for the senior project, it turned out they wanted to make their project about my battle with Aplastic Anemia. Both Mr. Schoenborn and the my friends thought it would be a good idea if I joined their group, so I did! One of the hardest parts about the project was getting together with everyone, I joined later in the process so they had already figured out what they wanted to do and weren't really open to interpretation from me which I understand. It was also hard hearing that the plan for my graduation video to be shown at the actual graduation wasn't going to be able to happen. I guess that is asking a lot of people though. Though that was a downer it was still fun to create this project, to teach my group members and other classmates that I haven't seen in months, about my condition. I thought it was neat how my friends felt that more people should be made aware of this disease and spread the word of what others can do to help.

I think with this project I have learned to keep a positive attitude. There will be setbacks and disputes but staying positive, open minded and rational makes the process easier and I changed my view about sharing my experience, I realized it is something that is interesting to more people than the ones who are going through it themselves. It made me step out of my comfort zone and share these experiences with

people my own age which is something that shakes me to my core, so I am glad I was able to participate in it. If I could change something though, it would be our ability to get the video of Mr. Platte handing me my diploma to play at graduation. That way it would still have been people seeing my face and knowing who I am as opposed to someone accepting it for me.

My senior year was unlike most, but I can say to future seniors that you should skip as little school as possible, be there, be present, soak it in, pay attention. Pass the exam and choose a project topic that you're passionate about. Most of the things you write about should related to something you love or that has meaning to you unless given a topic. Give 110%, don't slack off. I procrastinated so much and I turned out okay, but you might not. Stay on top of your work and you will learn things you both expected to learn and never expected to learn. With this project I learned how to work efficiently with a group of people without ever seeing them. Not only did our group members have English during different times of the day but I couldn't even go to school. I also didn't anticipate to learn that people my age take interest in my situation, but I am glad I did.

This project didn't really reveal anything to me as it was about me. As far as researching Aplastic Anemia I knew what would show up in the results. It is for other people, complex and hard to understand. While going through the slideshow that was created I had to tweak a lot of things that my group had come up with because it wasn't correct and unfortunately that's how it will be for most people hearing about this disease, difficult to understand. It was hard to have my class watch the presentation

about me without me there and hard to film the interview portion of it. At first I had to start by joking around in order to seriously answer the question, it's hard to open up to people about things like this. I am glad that I agreed to do it though, hopefully it answered a few common questions.

Overall I think that this project has made me more confident in who I am. I am more comfortable talking about it thanks to this and all the interviews I was a part of for the media. I feel good about my hand in Aplastic Anemia and what I have and am doing to combat it. Raising awareness is the start and I am happy to say that I am playing a role in spreading the word. It touched my heart that the people who were close to me showed interest in my story, they have supported me through the entire ordeal and helped me with so much, I am glad I could help them with this project.

I don't feel like it's necessary for everybody and their brother to know all the details about Aplastic Anemia, I think it's necessary for people to recognize when a situation is different, to not judge when someone that has to do something differently from them, to be supportive to anyone you meet, no one knew my bone marrow was failing when they met me, I often pretended I was one of them, the constant trips to Grand Rapids ruined it but I envied them. They had no idea what Aplastic Anemia was, and I used to be that way too, however now I am glad that I do because I know about all the children and adults who need someone else to save their life by donating bone marrow and I know that my influence can get people to register to donate and I am happy that that information was presented.