*College Essay*

*CSU*

The balance of delight and devastation have been the only differences keeping our lives together. In life, there are moments that are so cruel and harsh we feel as if we cannot face the world around us. But through this darkness emerges moments in life that help us see the true beauty in us and inspires us to grow and make a positive change. In order to fully appreciate these experiences, we must face the struggles of life.

When my life started, my mind was so full of curiosity and wonder that sometimes it was hard to focus on the present. This continued as I got older but it wasn't always a pleasant trait. I would get myself into trouble for exploring places I shouldn't be. This only made my urge to discover even harder to resist. I didn't think about the consequences or the potential pain I could cause. I was just focused on what I wanted to find. As high school came around, so did reality. My curiosity wasn't the drive to my priorities anymore, it was responsibility. This adjustment was different at first because it felt as if you became an adult over night and growing up was an essential. I became very stressed and felt as if I hit a brick wall. The truth about the world and about life was finally becoming clear. I grew up always assuming life would always be filled with adventures and failures were rare. It was an unrealistic expectation but I still felt I needed an escape. This was when introduced to marijuana and instantly fell in love. It gave me the feeling of hope I always had when I was a kid, but lost as I got older. I chased that feeling for so long believing that it was giving the motivation I never had, but it was really just bringing me down more. I didn't realize it at the time which made my use even more frequent. I worked hard but there were times where it seemed as if I lost all ambition. I would turn to my past impulse. This became a problem because it was near impossible to balance this habit with school, but I still tried. It wasn't a problem for me, up until I was faced with such struggles and consequence, that I almost lost everything I worked so hard for. I felt broken, but I knew there were only two options for me. I could either sit their and feel sorry for myself or pick up my pieces and walk forward as I repair what I had damaged. It isn't easy and I am to this today picking up those pieces, but these circumstances helped me understand how destructive my curiosity can be for myself and others around me. I believed escaping reality was the best way to live life, I thought that as long as I was happy in the present moment I would be happy for the rest of my life. These unrealistic assumptions are what helped learn that I must create my own happiness rather than relying on substances. I am thankful that I can learn from my mistakes when I am young rather than facing the truth much later. My current drive is to find purpose for myself as I experience this crazy thing we all call life, but also maintain my curiosity.