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### “Why I Am Who I Am”

In spite of me living my early childhood in Mexico, I believe I can still relate to several of the anecdotes portrayed in “Camp to Campus.” The story that personally stood out to me the most was from Laura Hasting. Both she and I have had difficulty learning to fluently speak English at an early age. Another reason why her story caught my attention more than any other was the fact that she stated that she would work in the fields with her family as a child. Hasting describes her working with her family in the fields at a young age by distributing water to her family members when they needed it. I as well did similar tasks while my parents worked in the fields such as running irrigation hoses for a flower farm that my father partially owned, helping plant Alcatraz seeds in small pots, watering flowers, and picking weeds.

Other than working at a young age to help my family make ends meet, I have faced other obstacles such as converting from a strictly Spanish speaking background to an English speaking society. The only comfort I had at an early age was knowing that my older sister was going through the same dramatic shift in culture and we had each other every step of the way. Other challenges include being underestimated by teachers, not getting the attention I needed in the classroom and having dyslexia. These obstacles were not only making school increasingly difficult, but they were slowly but surely crippling me.

When I reached middle school I was completely oblivious of the lessons taking part in the classroom, mostly because I would give up so easily on my schoolwork when a subject seemed to difficult to comprehend. This led to me earning an average GPA of 1.0. It was not until the summer of my eighth grade year that I attended a Summer Camp for young boys with troubled pasts that completely changed my life forever. My counselor constantly motivated me and gave me nothing but positive comments. He also told me that I can accomplish any task at hand as long as I apply myself properly; he was also the first person to tell me at that I can go to college. At the end of that summer I entered High School with a positive attitude and a strong work initiative. I ended my first semester as a freshman with a 3.8 GPA. By accomplishing this task it provided me with the confidence necessary to become more focused on my schoolwork to fulfill one of my life goals which is to attend my dream university. Like some of the people in the documentary I have also received much help from my school’s counselors. Without the help of my counselors I would have struggled and endured ten times more stress throughout my college application process. My counselors, also being of Hispanic descent, know how difficult it is to be a first-generation college student and can relate with my struggles.

In conclusion the documentary “Camp to Campus” has helped me make connection with real life people that have endured similar life experiences when it comes to first-generation Latinos attending college. All of the stories told by the individuals have now caused me to become more motivated and focused on my education because I now know that if they could accomplish becoming college graduates, than so can I.