

My experiences and socrate's allegory of the cave essay sample

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A big fish in a little pond is a person who is important, but only within their limited circle of influence. This is the feeling that one tends to get when they have the ability to achieve anything within their small area in which they live. I had a similar feeling before I traveled to New York for the prestige Grand Prix Nationals Competition. This process I endured leading up to and after the competition followed the steps of Socrate's The Allegory of the Cave. He believed that one must be released from the state of not knowing and then, on there own, derive an idea that leads them to find a sense of goodness. This learning process lead me to a newly found form of determination, or goodness, to want to be better than just my little pond of competition, and to attempt to guide others in the same direction.

Two years ago, the regional Grand Prix competition was held in Huntington Beach. In previous years, I had done exceptional, but this year I placed in the top three and was able to continue to nationals to compete against the best dancers in the United States, as well as other selected countries around the world. At the time, I was only aware of this regional dance competition, and had no idea that there were even other regional competitions elsewhere. In addition to this, many of the girls, who I competed against, had been traveling to New York for many years. When I had finally got a high enough score to go, I was curious to see how well I could do against the best. Although I kept telling myself not to get upset if I did not do well, I could not help but feel like I should make the final round because I had at all the local competitions.

This feeling of confidence from past experiences blind sided me from the reality that there were others out there that were as good, and even better
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than me. It did not come from the ignorant idea that their could be people better than myself, but rather because I did not know otherwise. When I finally competed in New York and did not place, I was deeply hurt because I had not felt such a feeling of complete disappoint in my abilities before. Although at the time I could not think of any positive outcome to this failure, a few days later, when my emotions were put aside, I was able to understand that if I achieved at everything at an early point in my life, there would be nothing more to strive for later on.

This epiphany keeps me striving to work hard everyday. Once I came to understood this truth, I could not help but want to share my experience with my friends from dance. When I returned, I could tell my friends about my trip, without feeling ashamed about not placing. This excitement I felt, unfortunately came to an early end. When sharing my story with my peers, instead of listening to what I had to say, they just kept questioning me about the competition. At first, I was very upset that they did not take my realization seriously. Later on, I understood that they would continue not to understand until they too could experience it on their own.

Through this competition, I went through the steps of Socrate's allegory and realized what I needed to do if I wanted to become someone in the dance world. Although I could not reach through to my friends, I will always hold onto this experience because it was life changing to me and my future dance career. The realization that failures can turn into successes through determination and hard work keeps me striving to become better. With this

determination, slowly but surely, I will be able to be among those who swim in the bigger pond.