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Critical thinking is a central goal of Jesuit education, and at LMU you’ll be asked to think critically and intensively in every class. Dr. King suggests that critical thinking results in our ability to inform intelligence with character, and strengthen character with intelligence. Please talk about a situation that demanded critical thinking from you, and how your choices or decisions integrated intelligence and character.
Many are the times when teenagers are faced with temptations to go against the norm. This happens more so when they get the pressures of life, their peers and other persons in society. One of the leading vices that these teenagers engage in is the use of drugs. It is common knowledge that when they engage in the use of drugs they lose focus in life as well as many other things that give life a purpose. Mike was such a teenager. He was only fifteen and in high school when he had his first shot with marijuana. At that point, he felt like he never had and wanted some more. Over a period of one year, he could do this in secret but eventually his family learned about it and wanted to help him but did not know how. That is the moment I met a friend who introduced me to the family. I could see they were in agony and needed help.
I visited their home one afternoon upon being informed about his presence and state. At the time he seemed sober and upon interacting with him that morning, he looked like he could listen to me. My time to make an impact in his life had come and I had to do it no matter what. I intended to make an impact in his life. I joined him in his room and because we had met before, there was no need of introductions. I talked to him on a variety of things just to make him feel comfortable in my presence before I introduced the problem was ailing him. It was not an easy thing to do but I had to use my wisdom, knowledge and understanding to know how to approach him. First I used my example, as a person who was free of drugs and the things am able to do and those that I have achieved because of my sober status.
Using me as an example was not enough. I talked about the dangers of engaging in rug use at a tender age. Most of these dangers touched on his individual self, his family and the society. I went on to talk to him about the problems that come with addiction and how a person may end up even losing their lives to drugs. I did not know whether he as listening because he was just quiet and staring at me. I decided to engage him in a conversation and this made him open up. He narrated to me how it all started and what he wanted at that time. He wanted to stop but did not know how and this is the point at which my help was most needed and I had to seize the opportunity and offer my help.
Counseling is not an easy thing to do but then I found myself playing the role of counselor. We talked for some more hours and I realized that he was a trouble teenager. His peers were the cause of his problem and so something drastic needed to be done about it. This is the point at which we did a program that he could use in his day today life. We minimized time spent away from school and home. He had to do a diary of literary everything that he did at home and at school. I offered to visit the family over the weekends and talk to him. He attested to the fact that the meetings were therapeutic and wanted to walk in my footsteps. He promised to give an account of all his moves and by the end of the first month; he was already up and strong. We walked together in his path to full recovery and in less than a year, Mike was back to his old self. He vowed never to be misled again leave alone engage in vices such as drug abuse.