

I am persistent essay



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

In the video of Lance Armstrong, a cancer survivor and seven time Tour de France winner, a question is asked, “ Who says we can’t do it? ” Lance Armstrong replied, “ You may only get one chance, so go for it! ” Whenever I make reference to Lance Armstrong, the word persistent comes to mind. He embodies a persistent characteristic, and that’s the word I use to describe myself. To me, the quote is saying, you may only have one chance to do something right. Why wait till later, if you live to see, to make things right, when you can do it now. There is no reason not to fulfill it at that time.

Growing up with three female siblings and being the youngest, you have to always exercise persistence. In a family of six, we lived in a two-bedroom apartment. One room belonged to my mother and father, and my sisters and I shared the other room. It was four girls in one room and we shared everything! We not only shared beds, but the bathroom, clothes, shoes, hairbrushes, combs, and even Science Fair Projects. Sometimes by the time I received the “ hand me downs”, things were slightly worn. However, I stayed persistent and didn’t give up when faced with challenges.

I faced challenges when I was younger because I wasn’t considered “ as pretty” or hair wasn’t as long as the rest of my siblings. But I didn’t let those phrases get under my skin. I always thought of myself as being prettier of them, even though my family didn’t think so. In dealing with school, my uncle always told me, “ a grade of 99 is not good enough. Why go for 99 when you can get 100%? ” He always makes me feel sad when I tell him the grades because he always has a long speech about it. But I never fail to keep my grades up and succeed in school. I do this that way I will get a scholarship.

Being in this world seventeen years may not seem like a long time, but I have gone throughout many things that were challenging to me. I've experienced heartache, disappointment, discouragement, joy, and fulfillment; as well as gain friends and teachers to help you achieve your goals along the way. I have always been hard on myself to achieve my fullest potential. I still have a lot to learn and there is more "push" inside of me. In spite of obstacles, I have a smile and an enduring tenacity that doesn't let me give up. In order for me to reach my full potential, I might fall short sometimes, but the key is to get back up and keep trying.

James Whitcomb Riley eloquently puts it, "The most essential factor is persistence-the determination to never allow your energy or enthusiasm to be dampened by the discouragement that must inevitably come. Sometimes I am persistent to the point of annoyance to myself and others, but I've learned that being persistent is the most necessary quality needed in order to succeed. When I continue to think of the word persistent, I imagine myself being immovable and steadfast to reach destiny and my desire is not only for myself, but others that will travel in my footsteps.

Persistence requires me to reach back and grab others at any cost to see them succeed. In pursuing my desire of becoming a Forensic Pathologist, I searched for a mentor to train me in this field. First, I contacted the Coroner of Hinds County, but due to privacy, I could not be mentored. Next, I went to the Crime Scene Lab seeking information, but no success. Then, I contacted the Lab Pathology at the VA Medical Center, and again, due to privacy, none of the Pathologists were willing to serve as a mentor.

Afterwards, University of Mississippi Medical Center's School of Medicine Pathology Department was contacted. Emails were sent to all Pathologists and Pathology Residents, seeking information and a mentor. Again, no one agreed to serve as a mentor. It became tiring after being rejected, but I never gave up. When you think you have no chance of success, you continue on the path and don't detour. I continued to call until it was agreed that I could attend a Pathology conference. Lakeshore Funeral Home also agreed to allow me to speak with the Funeral Home Director to discuss the business aspects.