

# Summary and personal response



Jessica shares that in her early years growing up on a farm made her feel different from the other kids especially during recess as she felt "not being able to participate in school activities like my friends makes me feel left out and depressed" (Hammerer 2011). These contrast to the other kids who she feels have no chores, wake up just before school begins and have lots of time after school for social activities and sports. She describes the relationship between her mother and father who "rarely made time for each other" (Hammerer 2011).

Jessica shares that this, "left a lasting impression on her as an adult as she was always more focused on the job at hand rather than forming relationships". A pivotal moment happens in high school when her father decides to expand his farming operations and makes an important decision that he wants his "children to focus on school and go to college" (Hammerer 2011). Jessica could focus on her basketball as well as get involved in other school and social activities.

Her friends comment that they are amazed by how she "managed my time so well and how don't get stressed out" (Hammerer 2011). Jessica purpose in writing this personal essay is to share her experience growing up, having to balance farm and school life and, how being "different" made her feel. Jessica attitude is formed by this, giving her the tools, and experience to be responsible for herself as an adult. Jessica essay appeals to a wide audience who are interested in reading and seeing how the experiences of a child, can shape their attitude for their entire life.

Her tone is mixed. She expresses joy at the simplest chores like when she is feeding the calves. She experiences a fulfillment that she is " finally the one in charge" (Hammerer 201 1). According to Jessica, she is, " depressed at times, as she cannot participate in the social discussions at recess like her friends can". Finally, she expresses a great sense of accomplishment as she realizes her childhood has provided her the following tools to be successful as an adult namely; responsibility, time management, focus and resolve.

My emotional response to Jessica story was one of reflection and awe. At a young age, she was able to discern that she was different from her friends. She wanted to be able to fit in but that these differences did not make her bitter or sad. Then, when she had an opportunity to join in and participate, she excelled. She reflected later in life that this was all due to her being soused on doing the little things in life well.