

Jiovanni Torres

Mr. Gonzalez

ELA 12

Journal #1

It seems like a dream

I remember as if it was yesterday, here I was standing in front of the now familiar black gates about to make my move into my new chapter of life. As a kid, when I saw a high schooler, I was stunned at how tall they were and how old they were, though I was only a child, none the less they were huge!! I walked in, upper classmen staring at me as if I was out of the ordinary, I quickly found my friends and we talked about how exciting it was to be in high school, exchanging schedules, figuring out if we were classmates in any class, typical Freshmen stuff. Suddenly the bell rang and it was signaling a new beginning in my education life. Those are moments I will never forget, but one moment I will truly never forget even if I tried was the time I was issued my first detention. During the first week of school during my Freshmen year I had still not adapted to the schedule, it was an early morning, I walked on campus and the first thing I saw was nothing, no student in sight, no one. I finally spotted Mr. Robles and had asked him if the bell had yet to ring, he replied saying no. I decided that with the time I had till the bell rang, that I would go to the restroom. Soon enough the bell finally rang, I walked to my class only to find that every was already there!! I was soo confused, it felt like I was being pranked by the entire school, end of story I was late to class because it turns out the bell I was waiting on was the tardy bell, oh well, Freshmen problems.

August 25, 2015 my Senior year is about a week born and I'm truly excited but nervous about this year. My whole high school career has been tough, but none other than this. It's been a rollercoaster ride just to get to this point but the finish line is further down the road. I'm very pleased with my schedule because I was given Advance guitar and teacher's assistant for my favorite teacher, Ms. Wills. My long term goal is make it out of Lindsay, get out there and figure out the different ways life works, I definitely want to make sure that my parents are taken care of, that their days of working are past them, it's now my turn to take charge. As of right now my Senior year has put me under a lot of stress already, at times it's exciting to see how mentally tough I am and how far I'm willing to push to get through it all. Other times it feels like it's just too much, but I always bring myself back to my long term goal, which is to succeed not only for myself, but most importantly for my parents and my younger brother who has autism. I'm really looking forward to performing with the LHS Guitar Honor Group, we are like a family and we push each other to get better everyday, I can't wait until we can start gigging, being that it's my last year of high school, I want to enjoy it as much as I can while still maintaining that

consistency in the classroom. Senior year can be the best year of your high school career, or it can be the worst.

As a Freshmen I was told every single time to not slack off and lose sight of what really matters. I always seemed to push it off because I felt that I shouldn't have to worry, of course I was only a Freshmen right, it was only logical. Now almost 3 years later, I wish I could go back and tell that kid to listen and set his mind straight and focus on completing his task. It's hard realizing that all that time that I wasted has set me back, it hasn't ruined my chances, just made them harder, that hill has gotten steeper, it has forced me rethink my options, but never made me doubt myself. I truly believe that in June I will be walking to receive my ticket out of highschool, of course my diploma. My dream is to become a music teacher or maybe even a professor. I've always had an interest in music but never thought about the reality of making it a career choice. I love music and I love helping others, the guitar has opened my eyes, I've been given a gift by Ms. Wills, I want to pass it on to others, it would be amazing to give back to others doing what I love. My father was a musician when I was younger, he performed as a lead drummer for many groups and is pretty much the reason for my interest in music. With Ms. Wills, she has helped me realize what I want to become.

I'm very pleased with myself so far, I've stayed on top of assignments, though it's early, I plan to continue this trend throughout the year. I also feel a lot smarter and matured than last year, it's shown that I can accomplish anything if I set my mind on it. As a Senior I will now have a lot more responsibilities, but in the end, it's all going to be worth it. My Senior project has been really fun, I like expressing my thought and feelings in a different way, letting others know who I am can sometimes be scary, but my Senior project has been good so far. I'm just excited to finally have an opportunity to attend a great school and pursue a possible career. Currently my plan is to bypass a 4 year school and attend community college, just because I feel like it can help me improve my grades and give me a greater chance at getting into a great university, don't get me wrong, high school also gives great opportunities but because of my past, I must rethink my choices and currently one of them is going to community college. If all goes well, I can see myself going to Fresno State to pursue a career in music, might not be straight out of high school, but the long term goal is to make it there, no matter how it happens, that's my goal. By passing a 4 year school doesn't mean I'm giving up, it simply means that due to the procrastination of my past, I must recalculate my options with limited time, and resolve my issues and I believe community college can be the problem solver. This is my current plan, isn't my final plan because anything can happen in a one year stretch, but I'm looking for an alternative if I don't go to a 4 year school.

My family has been supportive of me and that keeps me at ease, I like knowing that my family has my back and will be there through thick and thin. I was really scared to tell my mom about my plan to bypass a 4 year school and attend community college, but she told me that whatever I needed to do to pursue a career would be fine with her, and that keeps me humble because I know that she believes in me and that helps me believe in myself. That doesn't mean that I can suddenly start slacking off again, I'm still pushing myself everyday, this is all part of

the plan to success. Every time I get assigned an assignment, at first I feel drenched, but then I like to conquer that thought by completing my homework, my favorite feeling is knowing I can go to sleep not having to worry finishing my homework, no matter how long it takes, the feeling washes over all that, walking in to class knowing you completed your assignment is a great, I've been on the other side and it's been really stressful having to catch up and that's where the problems begin, waking up homework free never gets old, plus it becomes a habit, finishing homework first, because time is scarce, you have to make decisions that benefit you. I can't wait for the year to get started, it's only just begun, it's my Senior year and I want to have a blast!! One makes so many memories during their high school life, you can't take these things away, really looking forward to the final days of high school, I for one can't wait.