

The experience that was the most important turning point in my life.

For most of us, parents are our guardians, providers, and teachers. My parents \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, like most parents, have made many sacrifices for the sake of their family. They came from the Philippines and are both in their late 40s and 50s. To me, my parents are the strongest individuals in my life, and they are the people with the best character. They have taught me rights and wrongs, and they have shown me how to be a good person.

From 2004 through to 2006, my early childhood, my father was always working. I remember that my father would always be away at work, while my mother was taking care of the kids and helping them through school. My father took any job he could find despite having a degree in mechanical engineering because my family used to struggle with money. He had to resort to other jobs because of the lack of availability in the Philippines. He has been a construction worker, maintenance worker, and a driver, just to name a few.

Later on, my father would work abroad to help with family needs. My father came to Guam in search of better opportunities. He came to Guam and lived with my aunt, his sister. My aunt helped my dad in Guam by providing a place to start. While my father was away, my mother by herself took care of both me and my only sibling at the time, my older sister. After a few years, my father would come back. A year later, my mother and father would have a new child, a new baby girl. It was at this time that my parents decided to leave the country for a better life. In February 2008, my father along with his 2 daughters and son, arrived in Guam. Since his children were under the age of 18 years, he was able to take them with him. My mother was required a few more years to wait until she could enter the U.S. But in 2011, my mother came to Guam to reunite with our family.

My family is in a better place in Guam. My father found a job that was enough to support his family, and my mother started working too. My parents worked hard for the sake of their family and because of them, their children can have a great future. Unlike the Philippines, Guam provides many opportunities for work and education. Wages in the Philippines are awful and many Filipinos suffer from poverty. Another upside that my family appreciates is better access to healthcare. The Philippines has a high standard quality of healthcare, but it is not accessible to everyone. This is very beneficial for my parents because of their underlying health problems.

It was 2015, when my parents had their last child, my baby brother. My family was super happy about having a new member of the family. Weeks later, a typhoon occurred. Guam suffered a lot of damage. Roads, power, and water were destroyed and nonfunctional. Schools were closed and everybody suffered a difficult time. My mom stopped working because she just had my baby brother and my dad was still working. One day, we got a call. Because of everything that has happened, the typhoon, and how much my dad worked himself, he suffered a heart attack. My dad luckily survived, but the doctor says he could not work anymore. All this time, he has been overworking himself. And if he continued his health would get worse.

My dad and I share some chores around the house. Every week, my dad and I would go to the store, bringing empty gallons, to buy refills of clean drinking water. Then we would bring them back home filled. One of the hardest parts of the job is carrying the many gallons of water from the truck to the inside of our house, and it's our job to get it inside. As time went on, I noticed my dad becoming slower at the task, and recently it is mainly me carrying the gallons. My father said that it is much harder for him to lift heavy objects and that he tires very easily when he does so. My father has stopped carrying my baby brother in his arms because of this.

The same goes for my mother. She has always been dealing with asthma, unfortunately her case is not getting any better. She has been off island to get multiple treatments, but after a while she'll feel worse again. My mother then started needing help while running errands. My mother, like my dad, has trouble lifting. They have both become physically weaker.

Going to the doctors has been a regular thing for my parents to do. But ever since I started driving, I have been accompanying my parents in their medical visits. I took my parents to their doctor's appointments, and sometimes if an accident occurred or because of my mother's asthma, I would take them to urgent care or the ER. Eventually, the doctor's appointments and walk-ins became more and more frequent. I would be driving my parents all the time to their doctor appointments, check-ups, follow-ups, tests, to get their prescriptions, etc... I took a look back and realized that my parents, the people that I've always thought to be the strongest people in my life, would be gone someday. I've been told that people are amazingly strong when it comes to losing someone. For a time, I had many thoughts and fears about losing my parents. But as I grew, I understood that I'm also getting older. Both my parents reassured us that they'll still be around for a long time and that their health problems are just minor disruptions. It's no surprise to expect my parents to be needing more help from now on, but I'm glad to be helping them.

My parents worked hard to get our family to where it is now. Their children have more opportunities and chances because of the leverage they gave and worked hard for. I have more opportunity and a better quality of life because of my parents. I am greatly thankful for what they have done for me. And I would like to repay them. Even though my parents have worked hard and got our family out of poverty, they didn't leave much for themselves. In return for all the

things they have done for me, I would like to take care of my parents. It would not be a burden to me but a blessing.

**Guam Community College  
English Department  
EN 110: Freshman Composition Essay Rubric**

<b>A: 90-100</b>	The writing clearly and effectively addresses the writing task in a thoughtful and/or creative manner. The content is well organized with effective transitions and effective beginning and ending paragraphs. Ideas are logical and fully developed through explanations, examples, evidence and/or other means appropriate to the assignment. Paragraphs are structured effectively. The writer uses appropriate and precise word choice; language and sentence structure are alive, mature, and varied. The writing contains no more than a few spelling, conventional (mechanical) and usage errors. Superior attention to detail through the writing process and crafting the essay is evident.
<b>B: 80-89</b>  <b>86</b>	The writing clearly and effectively addresses the writing task in a thoughtful and/or creative manner. The content is well organized with effective transitions and effective beginning and ending paragraphs. Ideas are logical and fully developed through explanations, examples, evidence and/or other means appropriate to the assignment. Paragraphs are structured effectively. The writer uses appropriate and precise word choice; language and sentence structure are alive, mature, and varied. The writing contains no more than a few spelling, conventional (mechanical) and usage errors. Superior attention to detail through the writing process and crafting the essay is evident.
<b>C: 70-79</b>	The writing addresses the writing task but may lack complexity. The content shows some signs of logical organization with a beginning, middle, and end and some use of transitions. The ideas are partially developed with some details, examples, evidence, etc. Paragraphing is appropriate. The writer uses language adequately but with some inappropriate word choice. The writing demonstrates some sentence variety. The writing contains a number of spelling, conventional (mechanical) and usage errors that do not interfere with overall meaning but do distract the reader. More attention to detail through the writing process and crafting the essay would have strengthened the final product.
<b>D: 60-69</b>	The writing has an inconsistent sense of purpose with a loose relation to the writing task. The content is underdeveloped and may be vague, simplistic, or superficial. The ideas are inadequately organized and may have abrupt or illogical transitions and ineffective flow of ideas. The writer uses inappropriate or inadequate language. Sentence variety is limited. The writing contains repeated weaknesses in spelling, conventions (mechanics), and usage. Patterns of errors are consistent. Lack of attention to detail through the writing process and crafting the essay significantly affected the successful completion of the assignment.
<b>F: 0-59</b>	The writing has a confused sense of purpose and/or no evidence of connection to the writing task. The organization is illogical. The writing contains no transitions; the beginning and ending do not relate to the content. The ideas are superficially developed and inadequate, inappropriate, or redundant details are present. There is little to no attention to paragraph structure. The writer uses inadequate and simplistic language. There are errors in word choice, and there is little or no sentence variety. The writing contains

	<p>repeated weaknesses in spelling, conventions (mechanics), and usage that interfere with the flow of the essay. There is no evidence of the writing process.</p> <p>The writing does not address the basic requirements of the assignment. The writer submits drafts past the due date of the assignment. The writer intentionally plagiarizes.</p>
<b>Comments:</b>	
<p>Information compiled, adapted, and revised by L. Baza-Cruz, S. Bollinger and T. Dela Cruz for Guam Community College, English Department, March 2013 for EN 110: Freshman Composition.</p> <p>Source: Dixon, C.J. (2007). <i>Lesson Plans for Teaching Writing</i>. Urbana, Illinois: National Council of Teachers of English.</p>	