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AP Lit & Comp / ERWC

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Personal Narrative Writing

What Personal Achievements Make You Proud?

Directions: Tell me about your own hard-won victories — in sports, school, your personal life or anywhere else. What did you achieve? What did you do to prepare yourself? What did you have to sacrifice to make it happen? What did your success mean to you at the time — and what does it mean to you now? What advice do you have for people who want to follow in your footsteps, but who are just starting to work toward that goal?

Begin your assignment on the next page of this document. This assignment must be one full page, double-spaced. This is due at the end of the period, so get to work!

Finding my Wings

Throughout high school I have struggled with being a leader instead of a follower. Starting as a freshman at El Capitan, I camouflaged within a group of friends and was scared to be alone among the upperclassmen who tried to talk to me and get me involved. Being at school was not something I enjoyed, and when I went home at the end of the day I was grateful to be away from the crowd, but also incredibly lonely. As my years in highschool progressed, I lost and gained friends. Making friends was challenging because I am an introvert and starting anything on my own seemed impossible. I have worked to overcome this social barrier by asking my classmates questions, complimenting people, talking about myself to those I don't know, and joining another group that I don't consider my own. In my first three days of senior year, I participated in a rally for the school, a huge event that I could never have seen myself doing in freshman year. While four years at the school helped me become comfortable there, the support I received guided me more. I will be in AVID now for four years and this program helped me immensely. Whether it was presenting in front of the class, group collaboration, or fun activities, AVID taught me that you can be put into a class full of people you don't know and they can become your main support system. However, it has required effort to be able to share my academic problems with my peers and take the risk that I might make a mistake. After all the mistakes I have made, I realize that I am guided to the correct answer by my classmates, furthering my ability to learn new things. This year I joined leadership which I feel has already encouraged me to speak out. While I still struggle with branching off socially, I never realized that I would be able to come this far and connect with others academically and socially. In the end, no one made me progress and become a leader, it was hard work on my part. To those who are just now starting to find themselves, I suggest pushing yourself just a little everyday and doing something out of your comfort zone. Many of my nights were spent encouraging and

debating in my head until I didn't have to think about what to do or say to people anymore -- I just became myself. Instead of blending in, I strive to stand out.