

Defining Moments: Overcoming Disappointment

A personally defining recent moment and event in my life would be getting my first job at the JW Marriott in February of 2020. While it may seem long ago that I began my job, the defining moments that result from the job itself are new and continuing. At the beginning stages of applying and receiving a job opportunity, I was 17 with no car and little to no money. I applied for my first job in hopes of gaining a sense of responsibility and independence, while earning money for myself just like my peers and close friends had for quite some time. My first day of work was during the last weekend of February and on the outskirts of an approaching spring break. While at the time I was ecstatic to work my spring break and bring home paychecks, it is clear that COVID quickly halted that experience. The JW shut down for 10 weeks, leaving me unemployed after just beginning a new job. Personally, this was upsetting but the worst event that resulted from this was watching millions of Americans lose their jobs that provided for their families, while I was simply a high school kid who just wanted to save money. To look back, it is a defining moment for me as I was awakened to what life was suddenly becoming all because of a major historical event cast upon the globe. When I returned back to work, I saved money to buy my first car as well as saved money to help pay off my college. Without this event, I would still be that blind high school girl who thought of how things and life worked for just myself and was ignorant to the events of life on others. I will always be extremely appreciative of this personally defining moment when I got hired at the Marriott because it paved the way for my first job and car as well as keeping my humble and grateful for the life I live.

A defining moment of an ancestor would be best described by my mother. In relation to my experience with getting a job to pay for college, the same applied to my mother. When my mother graduated high school, she wanted to attend The University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona. She applied with an impressive application yet was turned away. In this defeat, she went to Pima Community College to start working on her degree and hopefully obtain an impressive transfer application. My mom worked constantly to make ends meet and her dream possible. She worked as assistant manager at Dairy Queen when not working at school and even picked up a job at Walgreens. When her first two semesters were coming to a close, she re-applied at the U of A. She waited weeks and weeks to hear something and anything back to hear if she made it work this time and finally, she did. She was accepted as a transfer from Pima Community College and even got the major she wanted. This is a defining moment as she worked hard for something and didn't end up getting exactly what she wanted, yet she didn't just throw in the towel and walk away. Now, she has a Masters in her degree and even graduated with a minor in Spanish. Considering this defining moment in relation to mine, both made us better people who respect hard work and want to be the best. Being dedicated to what you want whether it is a job, major, scholarship, specific item, or anything in the world will pay off in ways you will be proud of and my mom exemplifies that fully.

