

## Part 1

A defining moment in my life may be that my parents became immigrants and came to the United States to give me and my brother a better chance of having a good life without the suffering and ultimate poverty we may have experienced in their homeland. Without them making the decision to leave Mexico and meeting in California I may not even exist, and if I did I would have a completely different life than the one I lead now. My family sacrificed so much to my brother and I a better education, environment and lifestyle than they ever had growing up and they made a selfless act for us that I can't ever repay. Especially concerning the world today, if I had lived in Mexico so many problems would affect me personally such as corruption of the police, cartels, femicide, and COVID-19 spreading through Mexico at an alarming rate. I enjoy the freedoms I have in the states which allow me to have more privileges than I would in my parent's towns. I even had the chance to graduate high school and go to university because I earned scholarships, got financial aid and my dad pays the rest off even if it means he has to work more to make ends meet. All the things I accomplish were made possible by my parents' sacrifice and I wouldn't have so many positive defining moments in my life without them. So I believe the most defining moment in my life is my parents actions that lead me to be successful and grateful for everything I have and can do. Although we are a part of history, my story isn't going to be told to the world but it is important to recognize what affects our lives and how differently our lives could be if one aspect was changed.



## Part 2

My grandmother had about 12 children, including my dad. They lived in a small town with very little opportunities so they made the hardest decision they could make, leave their homeland. This was the beginning of my family's journey to the United States but more specifically my dad's journey. My dad had to drop out of school, or *la primaria*, like they called it in Mexico to start working at a restaurant. My dad left his hometown when he was around 16 and he couldn't go back until he had papers or a green card. He went to California like many of my other uncles and aunts and made a living for himself. My dad has always been a hard worker so he was doing his best to support himself and any family members that may need help. My dad met my mom in California at a job they worked at. They ended up having me and my brother and we lived in California up until I was 5 years old. We then made the trip to Texas because the housing situation is inexpensive than back home and because it'll be a better environment for me and my brother. We lived a good life here, still surrounded with family and love but my dad

had to work a lot of days to have a liveable wage. My dad will work from 4 am till 5 pm every day except the weekends occasionally. My dad will take us to my *madrina's* house when we didn't have school and to our family friend's house when we did have to go to school. We were taken care of until I was in highschool and I started to take care of my brother by myself. My dad didn't want me to get a job in high school, he always wanted me and my brother to focus in school and to make sure we were doing our best. This eventually helped me graduate top 10% and be able to go to a good university. My dad doesn't like to discuss money problems or issues with my tuition, he makes sure that I can complete my schooling. My dad worked really hard for me and my brother which allowed me to be able to go to school with small loans and my brother can follow my footsteps when he graduates from high school. My dad has also been able to buy a brand new house after all these years and he's really proud of it. My dad is a private man, I didn't really know a lot of his childhood or adulthood before he had me, but he has always been a kind and goofy guy (too goofy if you ask me) but he doesn't let his hardships get to him and to us. He is the best father I could ever have and I try my hardest to make him proud.

