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### **My Literacy Narrative (Draft)**

I used to imagine since the first time my dad moved to the United States, how you learn another language, how people born in the USA know English. Do they born with language, or do they learn from zero as migrants do? the first time I came here, the only word that I learned from my aunt was “excuse me” and I only knew because I pushed a man and he stared at me like I didn’t belong with them. After the first time, I came to the USA my everyday toughy was “Am I going to be able to learn English one day? Am I going to live there one day and feel good without my language? Am I going to be able to speak, read, write, and understand as “Americans” do? I never realized how important it’s to learn more languages as you can until I became the new translator in my family, and protected my dad and mom from people who wanted to treat them differently because they don’t know English. I never realized that my entire life was going to depend on a different language that I hated so much.

My first time in New York City was incredible, I meet amazing places, but as soon as I got here I realized, how I was going to communicate with people, and how I was going to ask things, at that point in my life I didn’t know that I was going to live here, until 9th grade. I lived in Ecuador during my childhood and I remember that I had an English class, in which you learn

the basic stuff, how do you say hello, family members, numbers, and how to do some sentences in English. I used to hate it so much, for me was the worse class, in that time I considered that learning another language was not important, that it was a lot of time. I passed the class in 7th grade but in 8th grade, I didn't pass so I had to take summer school, but I had to take extra classes in a different place so I can pass 8th grade. After that, although I did pass and I still hated it so much that I couldn't find the reason for learning English. I was still taking extra classes after school and somehow I started to like it and it become easy. My entire life changed when I decided to live with my dad in the USA, of course, my mom motivated me because the big deal here was "If I go now when I have 13 years ill be able to learn English". I was scared, I was imagining how I was going to understand algebra in English, how I was going to speak to my teacher, how I was going to communicate with my school, and of course, the hard question was "How i was going to understand my classes, do my homework and my tests?". I started changing my mind about learning another language. I meet people from others countries that didn't know English at the begging but after they became better and better and English became their first language. I started from zero, trying to get all the information, and if I didn't know something I just used a translator. In my head remained the thought " is this worth it". After 9th grade, my entire life changed. I became better and better, I had a lot of friends, and they were from different countries, they didn't speak Spanish, just English. I went to a summer camp and nobody there spoke Spanish, I went to a house with no Hispanic people, I meet different cultures, I went to different places, and most important I was able to help my parents with the language. I feel proud of it, they were always treated badly because they couldn't speak English, and people who knew Spanish always used to say the same phrase "Sorry, I don't speak Spanish". Now that I can answer them in English and show them that they're not alone, make me feel proud of the

decision to learn this language. Even when I'm doing my work, I'm able to help other people by translating them and letting them express what they need. This language show me a new reality, and it changed, the aspect of how I used to think, I'm hundred percent that learning a different language from zero it's worth it. I did it, I learned from saying "excuse me", and now that I'm able to write essays. Now I see how a simple thing o learning gave me so many opportunities to get all my dreams.

The learning of something different, the change of what you're used to, can be hard, and sometimes seen as impossible, but have you ever stopped to think about how learning a new language can change you? It changed me a lot, after years of fighting that learning English was a waste of time, I realized that this event in my life brought me into the person that I'm now. You can start from zero when you learn a language but after of time you will speak with it and see that Learning I the most incredible thing. I want to learn more languages to be able to communicate more with the world and keep fighting with teenagers the idea that languages are a waste of time because I'm proof of the incredible things that learning languages can give to you.