



### Personal Statement: Strategies for Supporting Students Case Study III

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#### **Prompt**

Indicate a person who has had a significant influence on you, and describe that influence.

#### **Student Response**

I had grown up in Mexico for the first six years of my life in a small town in Oaxaca. I had many friends from school that I had been raised with for most of my life. I lived in a good house with a big backyard full of many fruits and vegetable that my grandmother grew, which she would sell in neighboring town and a basketball court where I played with friends from school. I also had four dogs, one of which I remember very well, his name was "Mechudo," he was my favorite one; I would come from school and enjoy playing with him. Having all this made me feel like I had everything but in a blink an eye everything changed. I actually never met my father. He had left my mom before I was born, and therefore my mother was left to fend for herself while at the same time take care of me. When she met Alfredo, my step father, who I now call dad, she had no idea of what would become of their relationship. In an unexpected turn of events, my dad proposed the idea to move to America in search for a better life. I was forced to leave my friends, family, everything I loved and trust a stranger. I was to start a new life with a new language, a new environment, and a new set of friends. The transition was not fun at first but, I was not worried because my dad had said, "solo nos vamos a quedar por uno par de años" (we are only going to stay for a couple of years). Like the majority of immigrant families we didn't leave. I have now lived in America for about ten and a half years. I am now fluent in English, and I have many wonderful friends but, even these new friends will never replace the ones that came to visit me on that clear day to say their farewells and best wishes. I have a picture of my friends from Mexico and I in front of my house with the clear blue sky as the background. We all smiled but deep inside I knew I would miss them. I never imagined not seeing them for a long time because according to me, the move was only temporarily. I have now lost complete contact with them. My grandmother is the only one who I occasionally talk to, she still remembers me as the little boy who she saw that day. She has not seen me nor have I seen her; she does not know what has become of me. I wish she could see me now, she would be very proud. I wish she could see me race or take a look at all of the success I have achieved here in America. Although I may not recognize her if I see her, I will always remember her as the woman who cared for me as a child.

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