

The Addison Wesley Longman Award and the Cathy Denny Memorial Scholarship

Essay 1

Attending a community college, I thought, would be a different journey for me, but I came to realize that it wasn't so dreadful. At first, I didn't want to attend a community college because I knew that I was going to miss out on the real life at a university for the first two years of college. My family isn't stable enough to afford for me to attend a university, so attending a community college really helps them financially. I must say this is only the beginning stage of my life, and I know that there is so much more to come. I chose to attend a community college because of many reasons. From the first day of classes, I realized that this more beneficial to me that I thought. Classes

were smaller, credit hours weren't so expensive, and everything seemed closer to home. I live very close to the community college to the point where I have even walked to my classes when my car broke down or didn't bother to corporate with me those mornings. Walking to school is just one of the convenient things about attending my community college. Another reason I chose to attend a community college was because I knew that I wasn't ready to attend the 'big boys', as one might say. Even though I was acquainted with my academic skills, I didn't think I was fully equipped for what a university had to offer to me. Not to say that a community college is at a

lower level, but during my first semester, it was easier and more comfortable for me to learn the material and know my professors and learn the material. The classes I have taken so far have helped me not just academically but personally. One class in particular was my Communication 1 class. I loved that class and can't wait to take Communications 2. My instructors have taught me to be more organized, focused, and ready for what's to come later on in life. These classes do not just teach me a subject, but they allow me to express myself and help me find out who I am. I am glad I chose to attend a community college because it has helped me take my first steps to a successful life.



Bianca Blanc
Brevard Community College

The double winner of this year's Addison Wesley Longman Award and Cathy Denny Memorial Scholarship is Bianca Blanc. Bianca has overcome tremendous challenges to achieve her current level of academic success. She noted in her application essay that engagement with challenging yet uplifting books has motivated her to excel and instilled in her a desire to help troubled children.

Essay 2

For many years, I have been picked on, ridiculed, humiliated, and beaten up. I have also felt unwanted for as long as I can remember. Since the age of seven, I can remember distinctively the exact words that students in elementary school called me: "Fat cat! You eat cat because that's what Haitians eat! You're so ugly! What are you doing here? You see that you don't fit in — so leave!" These words may never leave my heart and mind, but those specific events changed my life around. I forgave every one of those kids for making my elementary and middle school years something I will never forget. I was the type of girl who went to church every Sunday and was brought up in a Christian family. I thought life would be all sweet with a cherry on top, but like the old saying goes, "Life isn't always what it's cracked up to be." Every year I would attend youth Christian camps, and it would be the same old people, same old routines: People crying and people being saved by accepting Christ as their personal lord and savior. I never took it seriously

because I thought for years no one had ever taken me seriously, So how can this person so called Jesus (whom I don't see or know) can take me seriously? As for me, I could never really get over the fact that I always felt out of place and that no one cared for me but my family, and even then I still didn't always get along with all of them. I was searching for an answer to all of my pain and sorrow. Since the days of my ridicule, I felt like my mind was full of evil revenge, my heart was contaminated with poison, and my body was too weak to stand up for the everyday heartache I went through. I always wore a façade on my face and did my very best not to show my family or the world how I really felt inside. Mother always told me whenever I had hard times to go to the Father above. I thought it would be odd trying to talk to someone who really wasn't there or someone I didn't really think existed, but one night I believe I was at the lowest peak in my life with everything. I went to my room, put on one of Yolanda Adams CD's, and just started

crying. I didn't cry purposefully but because life was too much for me to tolerate. I cried for hours late into the night, hoping that Jesus would hear my cries about every emotion that was running through my mind, every piece of my heart that I hoped he would put back together, and every question that someday he would answer. I cried until the tip of the sun started to bring light into the new day. My pillow was soaked from the tears I cried through the whole night. But in that moment of time, I suddenly felt a relief. It was as if a weight has been lifted from me. Even though I had cried the whole night and prayed with all my might, I smiled just as the sun rose. That morning I felt as if I were re-born again, ineffable, and starting a new life. Jesus promises us that he will never leave us nor forsake us. I knew I had a journey to get to better days, but he was and will always be by my side. Because of that night, I can truly say that was an experience I will never forget. I know that I can't see him, but he is always there. There is no better life then a life with Jesus Christ.