

Dear Mother & Father

I am to prepare this letter to you in a fashion where I turn this into the teacher, so I will promptly write such a letter. It is to either thank you or condemn you for your actions that shaped my childhood education, beginning with my pre-schooling, all the way through high school. Well, here goes nothing, pops, as you'd always say.

I was, but of course, born to you, so I was never hindered with language problems, especially ASL, but it was upon your sheer brilliance that I was enrolled into the hearing impaired program at the local public school. Throughout my early education, I was taught the basics of English, Mathematics, science, history, and even about myself and my peers. One thing I wished, though, were your decisions upon the speech training part, but as I look back, perhaps I was at fault as well. I never expressed dislike of having to repeat sounds that meant nothing to me and my constant anger of having to go to see the speech teacher. Still, I hoped that part wouldn't have to be required, but it is done with and it was not that dramatic of an experience, anyhow.

The mainstream program itself was rich with sign language and exposure to educational accesses for children like me, so I was never at a disadvantage interacting with my classmates, especially the hearing ones. If I remember correctly, I did have a few smattering of hearing friends here and there, all their names absent to me, friends nevertheless. As I grew, naturally, the number declined, not that it really matters. I was never forced to use my voice while signing and I was allowed to speak my mind, which I think is impressive, given their "total communication" belief.

One summer during the beginning of my high school years, you sent me to Youth Leadership Camp where I learned much more from people like myself. That immediate fall, you made sure arrangements were made for me so that I'd enroll at a deaf school. At the deaf school, I learned much more and felt much more myself than I ever had in my life. Comparing the educational context I received at the public school and the deaf school, I feel both schools strived to challenge me and I felt challenged, so therefore your goal of placing me in the highest strata of education possible as accomplished.

I can do nothing but only thank you for the opportunities you allowed me to explore, despite the fact that I was a rebellious teenager whilst you were taking care of my newborn brother. My trysts with you were only small obstacles compared to what you had to face trying to give me the best education I could really receive in this politic-infested country that faces educational issues everyday, both public and private. Again, thank you.

Love,