

MLK Design Seminar  
17.922 IAP13  
Assignment 3 – Autobiography  
M.I.T. Student

Boston has been my home for more than 12 years, but when asked the question "where are your from?", my first instinct is to say "Nigeria". I was born in Asaba, or Onitsha, depending on who you ask (the hospital was basically on the border of the two cities). My dad was in London the day I was born and my parents hadn't chosen a name for me, so my mum named me Ejiro. She thought it was a beautiful name, one from my dad's tribe, which speaks a different language from my mum's tribe. Upon arrival from London, my dad expressed his disagreement with the name choice and instead named me Eloho. So my hospital records say Ejiro Akpovi, which my birth certificate, and every other document after, says Eloho Akpovi.

My dad, who passed away two years ago, was a retired Chief Justice in Nigeria. My mum was a teacher, then a Vice Principal of a high school, and now a Principal of a high school in Nigeria. My half siblings from my dad are lawyers, judges, magistrates, teachers, engineers, and part time interior designers. My two sisters from my mum's previous marriage are a lawyer and a geologist. I am surrounded by people who value education, but not by anyone who has gone down the medical path.

Today, I call my "home" Boston, or more specifically, Randolph, MA. I live with my aunt, who is my mum's youngest sister, her husband, her four kids, and my mum's mum. This isn't the typical home but it is my home and they are my family. My parents value education so much that they thought it would be best if their last child received an American instead of an English (most of my siblings and my dad studying in London) education, so I've been in the US with my aunt since the age of 8. I attended Boston Public Schools (BPS) throughout my K-12 experience. I struggled when I first started school in the 3rd grade, but I soon began to excel. When presented with the opportunity to enter Advance Work Class in the BPS in the 5th grade, I took it and since then, I've done everything I can to academically challenge myself. In the 7th grade, I enrolled in the John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science, one of the exam schools in Boston. I took as many Honors and AP courses as I could but never felt exceedingly challenged. I did extracurricular activities including sports, culture and dance clubs, and babysat my cousins and kids of family friends to occupy my time. I still never felt challenged. It wasn't until I was accepted into MIT that I realized I couldn't pass up the opportunity because this was my chance to really push myself.

Here at MIT, I've definitely found a challenge. It's been an amazing experience that has really allowed me to find my "thing". I am heavily involved in several student organizations, I tutor elementary school kids, and I study material that I've always been so curious about. I've found that I love planning events, being creative, organizing activities and people, taking care of people, kids in particular, and learning about the capabilities of the human body and the brain especially.

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