

MLK Design Seminar
17.922 IAP13
Assignment 3 – Autobiography

I was born in Silver Spring, Maryland but I've lived in Quito, Ecuador for a lot of my life. Six months pregnant, my mother got on a plane to Silver Spring to have her daughter be an American citizen and enjoy the privileges that come with that. Since most of my mother's family already lived here, they encouraged my mother to have her daughter be born in the U.S.

At that point my mother had just received her green card, which let us live here with no problem, but our permanent place of residence was Ecuador. My mother knew she wanted me to study here in the United States. For that reason once she received her green card, she made sure not to lose it and we began moving back and forth from Quito to Maryland. Because my father stayed in Ecuador, my mother and I would move back and forth, spending half a year in Ecuador and half a year in the United States up until I was in the third grade.

Having to move so much helped me become a quick learner. The constant switching of the languages made me like math because it was the only thing that didn't change in school. My mother always said I the transitions were pretty smooth because I was a fast learner and in just a couple weeks of struggling, lets say with cursive I managed to pull through. I always liked learning new things and always felt a bit behind the class after every move. The move made me put in a lot of effort to catch up. Due to this, I developed a passion for learning. My family always reminds me of how I wanted to know everything as a kid and would ask questions to the point of annoying everyone.

When I was older, my parents decided to have me finish all of 3rd through 5th grade in the United States. By the end of this time though, my mother wanted to go back to Ecuador and I ended up going to all of middle school there. It was decided at the end of middle school that my mother and I would move permanently to the U.S. Back then I didn't understand why I had to leave my friends, my house and my room here in Ecuador to go live with my godmother in the U.S. In the end, I got used to life in the U.S. for the last and final time.

High school flew by quickly in no time I was applying to college. I am an only child, but I have many cousins that I consider my brothers. My mother comes from a big family that like most Hispanic families lived very close to each other and got together for birthdays almost every weekend. For a lot of years I was the only little girl in my family, so I learned to play soccer and video games with the boys while also being the favorite for being the girl. Growing up in Ecuador made me grow with all the customs and traditions that many Ecuadorian families have had for generations. Growing in the U.S., made me be more open-minded to other customs and experiences. I hope to continue traveling and experiencing new things as well as going back to Ecuador.

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17.922 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. IAP Design Seminar
IAP 2013

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