

My Autobiography

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Intro to Teaching

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Abstract

In the following writing piece, the reader will learn mostly about my life in general, including about my family, where I grew up, and different activities that I either used to, or still enjoy doing today. A specific topic my paper covers is life and why I view it as so very important. My paper also includes the reasons why I believe it is essential to learn different concepts from others so that your life turns out to be as worthwhile as possible. Specific examples of my different joys, struggles, victories, and disappointments I have gone through throughout my life so far will also be addressed.

My name is Chaitra Rihann Jewell. I was born July 18, 1988, at Kosciusko Community Hospital in Warsaw, Indiana. I share a birthday with my twin brother named Cody who was born a few minutes before me. Unfortunately, my brother passed away on July 11, 2003, just six days after he was tragically involved in a moped accident. He is still considered a major part of my family and a huge part of my life because just like I have always been told, twins stick together no matter what. We have one older brother named Rory who resides in Fort Wayne, Indiana, with his girlfriend, Alisan. Both my brothers and I grew up with our parents, John and Rhonda, giving us everything we ever needed and more. We were always taught to work hard for what we wanted out of life and, of course, to always do our weekly household chores. I began dance lessons when I was about 4 years old and loved every minute of them. The part about taking dance lessons that I really enjoyed the most was working extremely hard all the way up until my recitals where I really got to shine in front of an audience. Having all of my family members there to watch me was priceless; they were all so proud of what I had accomplished. The different dance classes I participated in were tap, jazz, ballet, and gymnastics. I continued my dance lessons all the way up until I was 12 years old when I had to quit because of difficulties my dance studio was having. I have lived in the same small town of Akron, Indiana all of my life, and have lived in the same house for 16 years now. My family only moved once before when I was just three years old from a house just a couple of miles down the road from my current residence.

As a young child, I attended preschool at the Akron Church of God located in Akron, Indiana. I went to kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Akron Elementary School earning numerous awards, such as perfect attendance, writing, reading, and citizenship. My middle school years were probably both my favorite and the most important to me out of all the twelve years of

education I have received so far, simply because they were the last few years I got to spend with my twin brother, Cody. That is what makes them so special. I went to Tippecanoe Valley Middle School 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade and was inducted into the National Honor Society my 8<sup>th</sup> grade year. In middle school, I also participated in Cross-Stitch Club and began my many years of tutoring to come during my 7<sup>th</sup> grade year. I define my high school years as when I really “came out of my shell” for many reasons. Losing my twin brother the summer prior to my 9<sup>th</sup> grade year was devastating and changed me in so many ways I never knew were possible. As an underclassmen in high school, I was not really involved throughout my school simply because I was still so hurt and very confused as a teen caused by my brother's tragic death. However, the older I got and the more friends I made, the more outgoing I became. I gradually became such a social student that by the time my senior year came around, I was involved in several clubs that were and still are a big part of my life because of the way they have changed me. Some of my favorites throughout high school were Students Against Destructive Decisions, Sunshine Society, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and Spanish Club because these were the first four I joined and the exact same four that have helped make the person I am today. The advisors of these clubs and the friends I made while I was in them make up so many wonderful memories that I highly doubt I will ever forget. The additional clubs that I participated in throughout high school include Student Government, National Honor Society, and Yearbook Club where I was an editor. Tutoring other students of all ages was also a big part of my high school career, and I still enjoy doing it today. I love the feeling of being able to help others when they are in need of assistance; it is a great feeling to possess. Throughout my community, I also was a 10-year 4-H member through Henry Newcomer's 4-H Club. During my junior and senior years of high school, I must have had as much of an impact on others as they had on me. I have concluded this because I was

crowned Miss Congeniality shortly before my junior year, I was nominated a candidate for Homecoming Queen in the beginning of my senior year, and even was Prom Queen by the end of my senior year of high school. I am now a freshman at Manchester College, and I love it here. Manchester is certainly different from the high school I attended, but I am a big believer in change. Going out in the real world and taking risks I know deep down I can accomplish is what life is all about, or at least that is what my life means to me. I strongly believe that Manchester College has many opportunities for me to take those big risks that I love and change them into my own personal challenges to accomplish with a lot of hard work and determination.

In my short life experience of only just 19 years old, I have definitely had my share of struggles, disappointments, joys, and victories. I am so fortunate to have such a wonderful and caring family who has stuck together and gotten stronger, I might add, since my brother's tragic death four years ago. I can hardly believe the transformation I see in myself since then. I have become so much more outgoing and optimistic, and I owe it all to my brother, Cody. To be perfectly honest, I am surprised I am not the total opposite of the two characteristics I just mentioned above. Losing my brother sure has not been easy, but I believe I have tried to make the best of the situation. Besides, that is what Cody would have wanted; he would not want me to live my life in sadness all the time. My brother has taught me so much about life and how it is so very important to always believe in myself no matter what anyone else might tell me or think of me. Still today, I find myself learning from Cody. He always did what he thought to be correct, and he never let anyone tell him anything different. In a sense, I feel I have brought my brother with me to Manchester College. Some days I feel his presence around me as I make more and more decisions about the Elementary Education Major I am working toward while at Manchester College. I have no doubt that my brother will also be there for me when I go on to complete my

Master's Degree.

There are so many reasons I can think of that have helped encourage me to become an elementary school teacher. My mother has been in the profession for 34 years now, and there are numerous occasions I can think of where I have helped out in her classroom. They range from grading and copying papers to even getting to read to and teach her students the Spanish language. I am very fortunate to have a person such as my mother in my life. She is a prime example of how I want to be someday. I want to be able to have as much impact on children as she has had on them in her teaching career. I am so glad I chose Manchester College to earn my Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education for many reasons. For instance, I love the tight-knit feeling of Manchester and how safe I feel here. The small campus size is so great for incoming freshman that are in need of a new and exciting place to learn, but that also want a quiet atmosphere to complete their studies. I have made many new friends since I first came to Manchester, and I am sure that number will continue to grow. Like I have heard many other Manchester College students say, "it's a *home* away from *home*," and you simply can not get that feeling at just any college. It takes a very special place, such as Manchester College, to give that feeling to the students. There are so many things about Manchester College that I love, and there are very few things that I do not really like. For example, it is not always easy to meet new people at Manchester College and to try to get used to their own opinions about topics that differ from mine, but it is possible for me as long as I am willing to try hard enough.

After reading about my life and the different things that are important to me, I hope it is clear how much I truly value my life and how much impact other people, especially my brother, have had on me. Like I stated earlier, it is never easy losing someone you care about and are so close to. What matters in the end is how you take what that specific person has taught you and

apply it to what you want for your own future. My brother has definitely had an impact on my decision to become a teacher just as much as my mother. He taught his friends, family, and even complete strangers to always work extremely hard for what you believe in and think is right. This concept is something I want to be able to pass on to my future students, as well as my own children someday. I want them to understand that life is about doing what you love, and that even if you have to work exceptionally hard to get to where you want to be, it will all be worth it in the end.