

If I had to pick a common theme throughout my life it would have to be perseverance in the face of change. Throughout my life I have dealt with a lot of sudden change and I had to learn how to push through it and adapt. We have made multiple moves throughout my childhood for family work transfers and each place we moved, I have been able to meet new friends and thrive in my new environment.

I have been playing travel hockey since I was eight. I was always an average player; I was never the best or worst on the team. My work effort and positive attitude always won over my coaches and I earned more playing time every season because I showed improvement. When I turned 16, I decided to try out for an advanced team. I was the final player to make the team. Initially I was disappointed because that meant I would not get a lot of playing time. Throughout the season I continued to work hard and I went from being the last player on the team to playing on the first line. We played in tournaments all over the county against other top players. A bonus from being at the ice rink frequently was that I was able to volunteer to help teach young children how to skate and play hockey.

In terms of my academics, I have always looked for challenges. In high school I completed the AICE diploma. The classes were harder and I had to spend more time studying but it was worth it to me to take on the more challenging classes while having a busy travel hockey season. For my senior year I decided to take it a step further and early enroll at Palm Beach State College. I am finishing my senior year of high school while attending college. The AICE credits that I earned and the courses I am taking at Palm Beach State College will earn me an A.A. and my high school diploma. I am juggling the college courses along with my first job. I used the money from my first job to buy my first car. It is a challenge, but I was starting to find my footing in my classes and get ahead.

The most recent and hardest challenge I have encountered started a few months ago. While on my way home from work I was hit by a drunk driver. The trauma from the seatbelt caused me to need abdominal surgery to repair 3 different perforations in my intestines. In total I ended up with 2 minor fractured bones in my spine, a broken ankle, a broken wrist, and an incision reaching from my chest all the way to the bottom of my stomach.

I am lucky to be alive and will use this optimism to guide me in future situations. I have learned a lot from this unfortunate experience, like how unpredictable life is and how quick it can change. The new car that I had bought was totaled. It bothered me for a few days until I came to the conclusion that I can buy a new car; I cannot buy a new life or brain.

I learned over the past few months how much I took basic things for granted. Walking, bathing, brushing my teeth, or playing video games were now a challenge. All along I was still able to read. My love for reading and learning has always helped me tackle challenges and allow my imagination to roam.

All of these experiences I have described display my tendency to persevere and push through adversity. I will be an asset to any college I attend, and an asset to wherever I land professionally in the future. Instead of giving up, I figure out how to solve my problems with a positive outlook.