The biggest challenge I have faced in my life was learning how to let people into my life. I was always one that kept to myself and turned people away whenever they tried to be my friend. Growing up I spent almost my entire childhood alone and it wasn't until my grandfather encouraged me to make friends and to have other people there for me besides him. This affected my academics in several ways in that I focused on nothing more than trying to make friends, resulting in my grades slipping drastically. Luckily the friends I made encouraged me to finish my work and they helped me along the way. I eventually caught up and I had an impressive work ethic and suddenly, the most biggest motivator died, as did the new person I had become.

From that day forward I didn't let anyone else into my life due to the fear of losing someone else. Eventually I regained another relationship such as the one I had with my grandfather, with my AVID teacher. When my AVID facilitator, Mr. Guss, moved away it brought back the memories of my grandfather and I lost the motivation to try in school. It was a constant battle with myself to determine whether I was going to try or not and one day I realized that I could not handle life all on my own.

To start, I went to the few friends I already had and apologized for not letting them into my lives as much as they wanted to be. In order to open up to others, I knew I would first have to form trust with my friends and others around me. I decided that I needed to break away from my semi- antisocial personality so I began participating in school events; I figured volunteering would be the best way to do it. I volunteered for almost everything I could and began to express myself to people and it took a lot of persuasion from others but I learned to ask others for help when I needed it.