College Application Essay Sample 2

Something to Say

“Ms. Smith, please see me after class.” The bell rang, and I sat frozen to my chair. I had never been asked to stay after class by a teacher. Not me, the straight-A student who had never even been near trouble. Mrs. Abraham clearly saw my fear as she walked over and took the seat next to me.

“Ms. Smith, why don’t you ever raise your hand to answer questions or give opinions in class?”

My anxiety was palpable.

“You are probably the smartest student in my class. Most of these other kids went to private, Catholic schools. They were raised with a certain set of beliefs. You weren’t.”

“That’s why.” My reply was a weak whisper. “They know more than I do about religion.”

“Please hear what I am about to say.” Mrs. Abraham paused to look me straight in the eye. “You have something to say, something that could help the other kids. I read your papers, don’t forget. I know what is hiding in your brain, and it is important.”

That Friday morning in March of my junior year in high school set the stage for the rest of my life. I knew I was smart, empathetic and thoughtful. What I didn’t know was the importance of my views. Mrs. Abraham was new that year. She didn’t know me or my history. She knew what she saw, what she felt and what she heard.

I have something to say today. Actually, I have a lot of things to say every day. My voice is important because it is unique. I think about things in a way no one else can because of my distinct upbringing and set of experiences.

My words can educate, validate or inspire. They can be lost, but they can also be found. They’re powerful to someone I may never see again, in a way I may never know. Although they can be misconstrued, misunderstood, and ignored, the risk is worth the reward. Thanks to the confidence and foresight of one person, I know the weight my words carry, and I am ready to share them with whoever might listen.

“And the day came when the risk to remain tight in a bud was more painful than the risk it took to blossom.” - Elizabeth Appell