**Describe the most significant challenge you have faced and the steps you have taken to overcome this challenge. How has this challenge affected your academic achievement?**

Both of my parents were born in foreign countries, Italy and Mexico respectively, and none of them graduated from college. Neither of them learned English as their first language. Neither of their parents went to college either; they were both from families who immigrated into the United States. Entering as a freshman, I had to be the one in charge of my education. I knew if I were to succeed in high school and thus attend college, I had to do take advantage of every educational opportunity at school because I knew there was next to nothing at home. English, above everything, was my most difficult subject. I primarily speak Spanish and Italian at home, with the exception of speaking English to my siblings. I found it exceptionally difficult to manage my time with rigorous courses in addition to maintaining my grades, let alone the hours of work I had at the restaurant. The best way for me to learn myself was to teach. While I was learning, I would also serve as a teacher at home for my siblings and my parents. They would always come to me for question since I am the smartest person at home. I took it upon myself to teach my parents proper English, or at least the English needed for them to succeed individually. Every document they typed, I hovered around them correcting any typo or error, and then teaching why it was an error. In being that role model for academic success, it taught me persistence and determination. I have had instances where I have wanted to give up on classes because of the lack of support, but I never succumbed. It wasn’t that it was stressful but it was more so that it was frustrating. I found solace in the one thing that kept me going in school: my work ethic. I am extremely thankful that I did. Classes with rigorous loads of essays, textbook readings, lengthy math assignments only reinforced my motivation. I set an example of hard work for my siblings; there is nothing that will ever stop that.