

## TYWLS Senior 2013- College Essay

Every twenty four seconds, one's dead.  
Every hour, one-hundred forty seven, gone.  
Every day, three-thousand five hundred forty two, murdered,  
and I could have been one of them.  
Had my mother said yes to it, I wouldn't be here right now.

Burglary, rape, abuse, murder- the world is such a messed up place. Despite the tragedies we hear about every day, I truly believe one person can make a difference. My mom certainly did. She went against what society told her was the best option. She sacrificed her status, reputation, and life, all for a "fetus". I hate that word, fetus. It's the word society uses to comfort their guilty conscience.

My mom was raped. It left her traumatized and alone. When she discovered she was pregnant, everyone kept telling her to abort. She refused. Unfortunately, it meant working twice as hard as she already did in a foreign country. Not only would she get weird looks from people when she walked down the street, her family wasn't that much of a help. Society kept trying to harass her to get rid of me even after I was born, but she stood up for me.

The strength, courage and bravery my mom possessed still inspires me to this day. I'm proud that she spent her life teaching me the same. Her traumatic past taught me to work hard and help others. I want to pay attention to all the voices in this world that aren't being heard: animals, kids, and even the environment. One day, I want to create an organization that will specifically tend to one of these issues. I dream of creating an orphanage or animal shelter and vow to fight hard to stop any and all types of abuse. I would especially want to speak on behalf of "fetuses" who can't save themselves. I am a survivor, after all.

I admire people who have dedicated their lives to what they believe in, such as activists, vegans and my own mother. Now it's my turn to dedicate myself to the causes I believe in, but first: college. I'm not sure what I'll be majoring in but one thing I am sure of is I will go to college and I will study something that will allow me to work with and help people. I want to succeed. I want to take advantage of this life I almost didn't have. I want to prove to my mom that I was worth the hard time people gave her for being a single mom. I want her to know I was worth the ridicule, the bad looks, her life. I want to be someone she can be proud of. I'm going to fight for the voices no one hears in our world and make them matter. My mom has taught me to fight for what I believe in, despite what others might think, and that's exactly what I'll do.