

I was starting to think about dropping my classes and going to a community college instead.

JENNIFER BRAN

Instructor: Sandra Jackson

ROAD TO CSUN

"You are worthless! Why do you go to school if you don't get anything good out of it? You can't even do anything good in the house. I'd rather have you not go to school anymore and just start looking for a job!" These were hurtful words that kept coming at me every day from a father who didn't understand or see his daughter's hard work to get into college.

In "Understanding Rhetoric," Stephanie Lazaro's step-father said she would become a high-school dropout by the tenth grade and become a man's "baby maker" for the rest of her life. These were very hurtful words but she took every negative comment as an encouragement to do better. The day she walked down the aisle and received her diploma, she proved him wrong. Even with all the negativity towards her, she was still able to move forward with her education. I could relate to Stephanie, because I had to deal with my father's negativity as well.

I was the daughter of that father who didn't understand the hard work I was doing to get into college. Every day, I would be busy doing school work and making sure everything that had to be done in order for me to go to college was completed. I had to deal with filling out forms, registering for tests, and making calls to CSUN to make sure I wasn't missing any documents. It was stressful because I dealt with it all by myself and I was tired by the end of the day. My father never saw the positive in what I was doing, he just saw the negative.

There was a time I took a class after school to fix a grade in order to improve my transcripts. When I arrived home at 6 p.m., I felt extremely tired. As soon as I arrived home, I helped my mom, started on my homework, and then fell asleep. By the time my father came home from work, he would only see me sleeping. Then came his negative comments. It bothered me that he thought I never helped out at home when in reality I did; he was just never there to see it.