Jennifer Gonzalez

WLC 300

Personal Statement

 In 2000, my father was finally able to legally bring my family and I to the United States. My mother, brother and myself would always struggle trying to communicate with others. I was quickly enrolled in the fifth grade. Learning a new language at that age was a bit of a challenge, but I somehow managed to grasp the language in less than a year. As time passed, I was finally able to help my mother communicate with others. My mother would always ask me to go with her everywhere from doctor appointments, meetings or shopping and would always ask me to help her translating her mail from English to Spanish. Helping my parents out with their English and translating for them definitely helped me improve both my language and translating skills. As time passed it was easier and faster for me to translate from one language to another.

As I started high school I was not very interested in Spanish or in learning the language. I did not want to learn something that I thought I perfectly knew already. Being born and raised in Mexico for nine years I thought that my Spanish was acceptable enough to get by. While in high school I was required to take two years of a language which is when I decided to take the easy route and take Spanish, easy A. Since I was a native speaker I was only required to take one course to cover my two years of language. After taking that Spanish class it made me realize that not only was my Spanish very basic but that I was not ready to handle a formal conversation with any Spanish native speaker. I then realized that I needed to perfect my Spanish if I really wanted to qualify as a bilingual speaker in any future career.

I started CSUMB as a Biology major with a concentration in pre medicine, because I love science and love helping out others. As a Biology major I wanted to focus helping those less fortunate or lower income families, I wanted to focus on the Latino community. Once I started taking classes I started to realize that I was not truly devoted to becoming a doctor one day and that is when I decided that by becoming a Spanish major I would still be able to help out my people. I chose WLC as my major because I wanted to better my Spanish and learn more about my culture. While studying at CSUMB as a Spanish major I expect to have a better understanding of the language and learn how to properly translate from one language to another.

 After graduating from California State University Monterey Bay with a Spanish B.A., I would like to continue with my education. I plan to either obtain my masters in translation or interpreting or obtain my teaching credentials. I would like to become a Spanish teacher or work at some type of federal building translating their documents or helping people fill out paperwork.