

One of the biggest challenges of my life happened last spring, May 2015. After continuing conflicts with my parents, I decided that the best thing to do was move out, because trying to talk through the issues was not working for me or them, though we tried. The first few days were the most intense, and breaking it to my mom did not go smoothly, but nobody expects that type of news to be met with an open mind, especially from your seventeen year old daughter. I spent nearly eight months living out of a suitcase at my friend's house, and eventually moved in with my dance team coach, with whom I currently reside. During that time, I coped with the emotional baggage by focusing on dance team and my part time job, with help from my supportive boyfriend, his family, my friends, and my coaches. I also focused on art.

Experiencing another's work of art requires the surrender of any mental and emotional barriers in order to get the full effect of the piece. You must make yourself vulnerable to the constant motion, silence, weight of the emotion pouring out of the work. You have to be completely exposed to get the satisfaction you want. This vulnerability is what terrifies me the most. The fact that you have to completely immerse yourself into somebody else's world is horrifying. But once you let yourself go, you feel free. Without prior biases and limitations, the world has endless possibilities. The same can be said about life after high school. Universities offer so many intriguing opportunities that lead you to the path that you never considered, but its the path that leads you to what you were meant to do. As a dancer, I push myself to learn new choreography, and perform with an energy that compels the audience to share my emotions. As an artist, I push myself more creatively, composing paintings that go beyond standard space and boundaries. With an open mind I strive for constant improvement, and an energy that urges others to do so with me.

It was burdensome feeling so conflicted over one decision for so long, but I have worked hard to get into a more positive mindset, and I do not regret leaving home before graduation. However, I do regret causing my parents so much heartache. But I would not choose to stay if I could go back to my decision day. Taking charge of my life this past year has taught me so much about responsibility and money management. I am also stronger emotionally and mentally. I no longer give into the negative pull that I used to feel everyday, and do my best to focus on the light in every situation. Reflecting on what has changed in the past ten months, I see that the biggest changes are that I strive harder than ever to succeed educationally and career wise, however, I have reached my personal best year through my changes in positivity.