

My American Dream, My African American Heritage,
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I overcame many struggles throughout the course of my life. As of now, it's not about being a victim. It's about showing others like me, a young, intelligent African American woman who has gone through so much that nothing is important and everything is possible.

You have to look at life as "I can make it. I will get there, and I won't give up." There is no time for "I can't, and I won't." Now is the time to prove to not only others but to myself that I'm not just an average student from Holmes County, I'm more than that. I as a whole am more than that. I stopped looking outside and see what I have to offer. Yes, I'm a product of Holmes County. I'm a product of a single parent, poverty-stricken home. Do you think that's going to stop me? Not at all. I want to be a general surgeon. Scratch that, I am going to be a general surgeon.

I have maintained a GPA above a 3.0 GPA in high school. My ambition and diligence show that I'm capable of doing work, even if it's complicated. Being that I want to be a surgeon, I will have a lot of classes as well as books to read. This scholarship could help pay for the classes and books. I deserve this scholarship.

I have been preparing for college since I stepped into high school. I have taken college courses in algebra, geometry, and algebra II. Not to mention pre-calculus and AP biology, just to name a few. I have a desire to learn so much more than I already know. No matter how long it takes, I will accomplish my goals.

What's life, ambition, and diligence without direction, and purpose?. As for me I, Corine Jefferson, have it all. I have will, persistence, direction, and purpose. The purpose is to build a better life for my sisters and me. The direction is the way I'm going to do that. I am attending Holmes community college and study biology and math. I will achieve a degree.

To become a surgeon I know that I will have to mature quickly, and I know what responsibility means. Being that I'm the oldest, I have always had to be strong for my sisters. So I feel that being a surgeon would be great for me. I'm responsible for my actions and more than capable of taking care of others. This scholarship and others is not the only way I'm going to pay for my school. My mom hasn't been able to save any money for me. However, it has always been my intent to pay my way. I feel like paying for my education should not be my parents' responsibility. However, this scholarship would help to further my education. Without knowledge how can you better yourself? How can you get ahead in life if you don't know anything? You know what they say, "A mind is a terrible thing to waste."

Throughout my life, I have wanted to reach out and know things about my family. It's about knowing your heritage, to see from whence you came. As I look at my family, I see a long

history of intelligent, respected, and spiritual members. I see myself the same--an intelligent, respected, and spiritual African American woman. My heritage teaches me things about myself and my roots. I remember my grandmother. When I look at my family tree, I see a lot of intelligent, bright people in my family. For example, my great-great grandmother from my grandfather's side was very intelligent, so my grandfather says. According to him, she was very smart in her classes and graduated with top honors. Now I see where the source of the smartness in the family. I know that education is that key to success if I stay focused on my goal.

Being an African American woman is an honor because I represent myself as a beautiful, smart, respectful lady. When I see trouble, I have the respect to help out in the community. As I show respect for others, I am doing it for myself. Respect from my family is important. You should show respect for yourself first if you want to earn the respect my grandmother had.

Being alive and spiritual is important in my family also. My grandfather is a pastor, he believes in God and that everyone needs to be saved. Spirituality makes you feel alive and encourages others to be themselves. I am a spiritual person that loves to keep people feeling confident about themselves. Aspiring to help people out, that's what my "smiley" does. My heritage is important to me--because I never know who is in my family unless I do the research to find out.

Being from a bloodline of an intelligent, respected, and spiritual family, I am very proud to know them. I believe that every-African American should know his family heritage.