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8th Grade Accelerated English

Mrs. Mathias

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American Education Week Essay

My grandmother, also known as my Nana, has inspired me to learn since I was a little girl. She grew up very poor and struggled to find food to put on her plate. She knew that her way out of poverty was through education, and she always valued any chance she had to learn. She worked very hard and was the first person in her family to go to college, and she was not able to do so until my mom was in middle school. She is strong, appreciative, and she grateful.

One of the first thing my nana taught me was to be as strong of a woman as I can be. I am the youngest of all my cousins, and I am the only girl. If I want to be heard, I have to have a strong voice and be direct. She told me my vote counts too, even if it was majority rules and I am not the majority. When making a family decision, she always looks to me first. She also has taken me with her every time she has gone to vote, so I knew how important each voice is, even when there are over three hundred million.

Nana has also taken us, the grandkids, several places around the world. She knows the importance of other cultures around the world, and also to appreciate where we came from. The first time I left the US was when I was three. She and Pop took us all around Ireland. My oldest

cousin, Noah, was only nine, Jonas six, and my brother Max was five. She taught us all about our ancestors from Ireland and the importance of our past. She told us about how they left Ireland for a better life for us, their family they had not even meet, or even knew would eventually exist.

Nana has also inspired me to be grateful. Every Friday, since before I was born, we have gotten together on Fridays to celebrate the little things with friends and family with a "Pizza Night". I was born on Friday the 30th and was at Pizza Night the following Friday. We have celebrated Noah getting into his dream collage, Jonas`s baseball career, Max making it onto the Yorktown Club team, good grades, small accomplishments, anniversaries, and every birthday since anyone can remember. We celebrate everything with cake, trick candles, and laughter.

When my Nana was a little girl, she knew exactly what she wanted to do and how she would do it. I don't know what I want to do but I know that I am going to use my education to my advantage and do everything I can to absorb every bit of the information taught to me. I am going to make sure that the lives of the generations after me are as good as they can be by what I accomplished throughout my life as my nana has done before me.