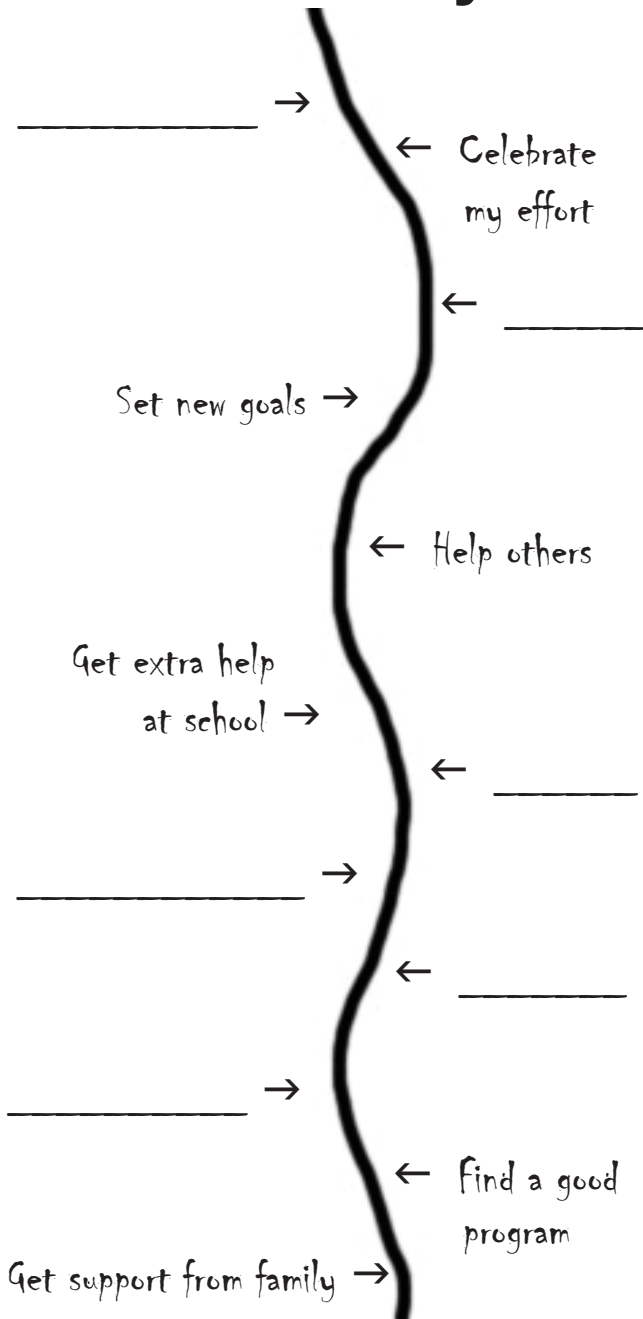


My Brother Believed in Me

Danielle Thomas



The person who motivated me to get my GED was my brother. He got his GED, moved out, and got a job. I thought, "If he can do it, so can I." Unfortunately, it didn't start so well for me. The first program I tried did nothing to really connect with me and teach me. I quit that program because I felt like no one really helped me.

One day my brother called and asked me about my GED classes. I told him through tears and sobs, "I wish I never gave up so easily, then I would have my GED by now." He laughed and reminded me of everything I've achieved. He said I have no reason to cry. "You can do it!" he said. "I believe in you."

He and my mother and my grandparents all began saying those words. At that point, I knew I had to keep going not just for myself, but for my family. I wanted to prove to them that I'm done quitting. I found the GED program at Portland Community College. Here, the teachers are very supportive. I will strive to continue my education for myself and my family, and mostly for my brother. I want to show him I can do it. I will succeed thanks to him, and everyone else who is with me.

Danielle Thomas is in a GED class at Portland Community College in Portland, OR. She is interested in going to college and studying art and Japanese.



Words that Describe Actions

Danielle describes actions she took to succeed, including getting support from her family and looking for a good program. What are some more actions you could take? Write them in the spaces provided.