

My Family Heard My Voice

Meriem Asri

BEFORE YOU READ: Think about the phrase “I stood up for myself.” What does it mean? Share a time you stood up for yourself.

Let me share with you how I made my voice heard in my family. When I won the Diversity Lottery Visa, no one in my family wanted me to leave Morocco and go to the United States alone. I explained to them that it would be good for me to go to the U.S. I would learn a new culture and new language, and I would have a better life and career.

At first, my family tried to convince me that I would have similar opportunities in Morocco. But I stood up for myself, and I said no. I gave them an example of my friend Sofia who won the Diversity Visa Lottery before, and now she is doing great in Texas. She became a nurse after four years of hard work. My family was amazed by this story and actually started listening to my plans. I told them that I would follow similar steps as my friend Sofia. I would learn English, and then I would go

“Each time a woman stands up for herself, without knowing it and possibly without claiming it, she stands up for all women.”

– Maya Angelou



to school in Information Technology (IT). My plan is to work for one of the biggest IT companies in Boston.

When they saw how motivated and serious I was, they eventually agreed with my plan. To sum up, I want everyone to know that I am a hard-working young lady and if I have something that I want to achieve in my life, no one can stop me, not even my own family. My family once disagreed with me, but now they are really proud of me.

Making an Argument? Use Evidence!

“Evidence is anything that you see, hear, or read that causes you to believe that something is true or has really happened.” – <thefreedictionary.com>

When you are reading, notice what evidence a writer is using to prove his or her point. Check the sources for the evidence. Are the sources credible?

When you are writing, make sure to use evidence to prove your point. Cite your sources.

AFTER YOU READ:

1. What are some strategies Meriem used to convince her family that she should come to the U.S.? What strategies of persuasion do you use when you are making an argument for something?
2. Read about evidence in the box below. Write a persuasive paragraph (about any topic) that uses evidence.
3. Discuss the quote by Maya Angelou above and relate it to the essay by Meriem Asri.

Meriem Asri is a student at Community Learning Center of Cambridge, MA. She is from Morocco and has been in the U.S. for 1.5 years. She works hard and hopes to use her degree in technology to find work in the U.S.

