

Monty San Juan

### Personal Statement

Toxicity, the quality of being toxic or poisonous. Many things in this world are toxic from the government, people and just in general the world we live in. Nothing is perfect. There are gaps and holes in everything. But we find ways to get around the holes and make it seem like we are perfect or okay. No one knows what's on the inside, but what shows and is told.

High school is a place where we are growing and still learning. There are going to be deterrents and times where it seems 'easy.' We are gaining the necessary knowledge to know what we want to do in the future. People will look down on you, support you, or distract you from your goals.

Freshman year comes up. Transferring from a Private school kid to a Public school. I knew a few people. Scared because I was basically fresh meat as Seniors called it. I felt like I was going to be bullied due to the fact that I am an underclassman. First couple of days was pretty smooth, meeting some new students, trying my best to just be me. I meet this girl, to me beautiful inside and out, great personality, just an all-around perfect. Heard many stories about her, but by the way I was feeling made me not care about her flaws. Just saw right pass that. We had three classes together, Sign Language, Biology, and Physical Education.

We started hanging out more and more during school, after practices and in our classes. I decided to ask her to the Homecoming dance. We went to every dance together. The both of us tutored each other in our classes and made sure we didn't fail. We would always have our ups and downs though. We were young, we didn't know what we would think and we were still

maturing. Although our relationship had many flaws we looked past it and still fought on. Sophomore year went by like a breeze.

As Junior year came up, we were becoming 'upperclassmen'. As everyone said, the hardest year in high school. This wasn't the only thing that was going to be difficult for me. I got some news that she was going to move, nowhere in the Bay Area, but all the way in Tracy... She told me she would try to finish the rest of the year at Newark and just transfer her Senior year. I knew this was going to be difficult mentally with school and my relationship. Trust. The number one thing that disappeared. We got into more fights. I would lose focus on my priorities. Due to the fact that she wasn't always going to be here, I would do everything to see her. Not go to practice, not study or do homework for school, didn't hang out with family or friends. My grades began to drop and I gradually became worse in basketball.

Everyone noticed the change except for me. I was in denial. Her and me would get in so many arguments it's just crazy thinking about it. We didn't believe in one another and the feelings just changed. I didn't want it to end. But as everyone would call it, toxic. I didn't want to feel like everything we had for three years was a waste of time. She transferred schools and nothing was the same. I was lonely. My mindset was all messed up.

Time is all it took. I moved on but I had to look back and find my priorities. Being in the toxicity of that relationship brought everything down hill. I became more active throughout the summer gaining all my friends back and getting back on track with doing what I love doing the most, basketball. The toxicity wasn't hurting the people around me but me inside and out.