

Simone Brooks
Foshay Learning Center
12th Grade
Ms. Conde

“The African American Individual I Know Who I Most Admire”

“The African American Individual I Know who I most admire,” I happened to meet in the month of October. This was no ordinary October; this was the October of 1988. When I met this woman I felt an instant connection and I knew she would be apart of my life for many years to come.

This remarkable woman that I am so reverently speaking of is my mother. I can guarantee this will be no ordinary “mom” essay because **no one** has a mom like mines. I have never seen such a strong will, determination, and sacrifice in any human being whether they are African American or not as I have seen in my mom. My mom is a single parent but I have felt more love than most kids I know with both parents.

My mother had me in her last year of obtaining her bachelor’s degree and due to the stress of bringing a life into this world she left school and began a family. My mom has always been a strong advocate of education and she knew in her heart that my father could not help her in the pursuit of my education and they separated when I was only one year old. I respect this decision she made because it was the most unselfish thing a person could do for someone else. She sacrificed her own love and education for the sake of her child’s future and as a child this is hard to recognize, but this reality is crystal clear now.

In addition to the many sacrifices my mom made for me she has also provided me with so many memories that I will hold with me my entire life. As I look back there was never a time when she wasn’t there for me even if she didn’t agree with what it was I chose to participate in. I wanted to recite poetry; therefore she was at the Marriott Hotel listening to me with moist filled eyes. I

wanted to run for President of my elementary school, she was at the school everyday making posters and helping me campaign. I wanted to be a dancer and performer, she was at every dance practice and performance yelling and screaming as if it were her first time seeing it and I was the best dancer in the world. Some may argue that this is merely part of a mother's description but when you observe so many people's moms who don't do half of what my mom does you develop a much greater appreciation.

The main reason I chose to write this essay about my mom besides all the things she has done for me is when she displayed to the world how strong and determined she is. After my mom separated from my dad, she married a wonderful man that was sentenced to seventeen years in federal prison. During the course of their ten-year marriage my mom did not have to work one time and everything was laid out for her. After his incarceration both my mom and I were left with nothing and were forced to move out of our home to live with various relatives. Instead of my mom sulking in misery she went back to school, still attended USC Neighborhood Academic Initiative meetings for me every Saturday, and she was able to bounce back and say she survived through a tragedy.

My mom has been currently holding down a full time job for two years now and she continues to be the superwoman I know she can be not only for me but also most importantly for herself.