

I push my foot on the brake pedal patiently in my car at a stop sign waiting for traffic to drive by. Suddenly, my car jolts forward. My head unexpectedly gets thrown forward and slams into the head rest of my seat. I try to open and stretch my mouth but words barely fall out. I stare down at my hands to realize that they continue to be wrapped around the steering wheel. I slowly pick my head up to look in my rear view mirror and notice a girl my age with a shocked expression on her face in the car behind me. My heart beats fast and I notice the sweat dripping down my face. I start to worry that I'm paralyzed, so I lift my hands from the steering wheel, put the car in park, and unbuckle my seat belt. The trembling of my body overwhelms me. I can't breathe. I just got in an accident. What is happening? Why me? Am I alive? I vision myself as if I'm in a dream. I pull the door handle, push open the door, and stager towards the back of my car to inspect the situation. Luckily, I find no damage. I proceed to call my mom in a nervous and anxious voice to let her know. I now realize to pay more attention to my surroundings while driving and not only be aware of what's ahead but behind as well.

I didn't want to go see if there was any damage, but I knew I had to be responsible and do what was right. I was always taught that if I get into an accident, I should always check to see if there is any damage and what damage is there, if any. Immediately, I took initiative to see what happened. I have learned that now when I am in a difficult situation or incident to always be very mature and use my knowledge, because it will always help. Using my knowledge on what to do when in an accident has led me to be a better person and to be more responsible during times where I am not certain on what to do. Also, being responsible has played a big role in positive situations, such as award ceremonies or going to the store alone. My personality has changed very much for the better, because with everything I do, I have a different mindset and perspective about things.

In the moment, I wasn't very focused on calling my mom, but I decided to be thoughtful and call her immediately. I had to understand that she would want to know immediately if anything happened to me. I had to put aside my feelings and think about my mom's during that moment. I tend to think more about how others are affected and what their feelings are during situations involving other people than myself. I base the decisions I make today off of how they may affect others. Whether it's making sure my parents know my whereabouts or taking out the trash and making dinner when they have a bad day, I am always thinking of others. Sometimes, I help out those who are struggling because I know it will have a positive affect on them.

The feeling of being worried that I was paralyzed and continuing to move my body to prove myself wrong has pulled out the bravery in me. I had to be brave in order to move on. If I hadn't been brave during that moment, I would've never realized what putting my fears aside would feel like. Since then, I don't procrastinate in situations that seem scary to me. Instead of backing down, I stand up, be brave, and move on. Anytime I had do something new or felt uncomfortable during situations, I used my bravery to overcome my fears. I do not have many fears now because I always know there's a way around them...being brave. I have had to be brave in order to get to where I am today as a person. There is risk involved with being brave, but no matter what, I've always moved forward for the better.