When I was in the 9th grade, I struggled with school and friends. I was struggling because I had just moved to a new school. I didn’t know anybody. I trusted everybody that I confided in as a “friend”. The friends I chose were known as troublemakers and people who didn’t want to do anything. I thought it was okay for me to be friends with them.

People told me to stop hanging with the friends I chose but I didn’t want to listen. I got suspended a couple days before my final exams. I was upset. I got suspended for getting into an altercation like I did plenty of times before in the school year but I never took my consequences serious.

That suspension made me think about the person I had become. So the summer of 2015, had time to think and I made a promise to myself that I would not be the same person. The person I was would get into trouble. I wanted to change because my mother didn’t like the person I was. Also, I met a guy. This guy made me think of myself and he told me that he wouldn’t be with me because of my reputation and because I acted immature at times. I sat back and thought maybe he was right.

I changed because I really liked this guy and I wanted us to be together and I changed because he was right. As the school year came around, I was a different person. I went to class every day, I wasn’t late, I didn’t get into trouble, and my grades were better than 9th grade.

My gym teacher knew me as the class skipper and a couple months into the school year, he told me that I’ve changed. He said that I’ve fixed my reputation as the class skipper and that name for me is gone because of the good I’ve been doing. That was a life changing moment for me. I changed for myself and now I know I can move forward.