

Fundamental Failure

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Word Count: 379

Jefferson, Wis. –Imagine graduating high school, with honors, and being unable to read the menu at a restaurant.

This is not unfamiliar to Anthony Camacho, now 24, who graduated from Jefferson High School in 2008. After graduation, Camacho's family went to a restaurant to celebrate; however, he was unable to read the menu in its entirety.

“That's when I asked myself, 'what the hell did I learn in high school?' ”said Camacho. “How did I even graduate? And with honors?”

As early as elementary school, he remembers receiving help from teachers' aids for reading, writing and mathematics.

Camacho has dyslexia. When he reads, he mixes up letters, and even adds words to the text. Because of the help he received in elementary school, when he entered middle school, he was able to read chapter books by himself.

In middle school, everything changed. His teacher's aid was different, and the teachers weren't as patient with his learning disability.

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“In middle school, I was reading a book [aloud] by myself, actually, and I would stumble over words. The [teacher] took the book away from me and read to me instead,” said Camacho.

The teachers at Jefferson Middle School often did this to Camacho because they were frustrated with him. Without the proper help in middle school, Camacho's reading skills deteriorated.

By the time he reached high school, things were “alright” according to Camacho. He still had problems in the previously mentioned areas, but he especially struggled in math.

However, in high school, the teachers still did not push Camacho to learn the things that he should have. Before graduation, he was never taught multiplication, division or fractions.

After high school, Camacho was accepted to Madison College where he is studying to be a police officer.

Camacho’s passion for helping people and his uncle Jim Camacho, who was a Wisconsin state trooper, inspired him to become a police officer. He has two more years left at Madison College before he will enter into the Madison College Law Enforcement Academy.

Technical school has been a struggle; however, Madison College has the resources and the desire to help Camacho succeed.

Camacho has found a strong drive of his own to be successful, and he has pushed himself to learn what others thought he couldn’t.

Source:

Anthony Camacho

Age: 24

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