

The Chautauqua Experience

My year and a half at Chautauqua has been one of the best experiences in my life. Throughout my time at Chautauqua I have had many depressing experiences and all the time the staff, especially my teacher Sabra, were very understanding and supportive. In this past year I have been in and out of the hospital and a state of depression due to a second trimester miscarriage. I fear I would not have made it through this year if it had not been for the love and support of my teachers, Sabra and Caryn.

Not only did I find this year to be one of support from my teachers, but I learned more in the past year and a half at Chautauqua than I'd learned in two and a half years at my previous high school. Sabra and Caryn made sure that my work was 100% correct. Therefore I would truly know the right answers.

Caryn and Sabra were not only academic teachers, but life teachers. When I had a problem in my life, they would tell me of their experiences to help me with what I was going through. They also showed me that no matter how hard something is, or how depressing a situation, you can always get through it. They also taught me how to laugh again. They are a lot like Lucy and Ethel. I also learned a lot from my diversified occupations teacher, Barry.

Barry is a very opinionated person. At first for me this was a problem, but then as I was around him every day I learned that just because I don't agree with some of his opinions did not mean that I did not have to like him as a person. I learned to be tolerant of others opinions and even learned to express my opinions more openly.

Not only have I had the privilege of being a Chautauqua student, but I had the pleasure of being on the government group board. This group gave me a chance to get to know our wonderful principal Steve Schour. He has taught me that throughout life you are going to strive for many goals, the key to capturing those goals is prioritization and motivation. If not for these things I would not be so close to being a Chautauqua graduate.

In closing, I'd like to say thank you to everyone who has made the Chautauqua experience a wonderful one. Thanks to Michelle, whose sweet voice would transfer me to Sabra's room when I was sick and whose beautiful smile welcomed me each day. Thanks to Adam who kept our room smelling clean and for making me laugh when I stayed late in the day. Thanks to Lisa for teaching me that group cooperation is very important and that generosity is a virtue. Thanks to Caryn, who may only be an aide to some, but a great teacher, friend, and inspiration to me. Thanks to Steve for all your help and your witty jokes at the best times. Thanks last but not least to Sabra who is a wonderful teacher, friend, inspiration, and mommie!! love you Sabra and Caryn. Thank you for everything especially for teaching me that I am a woman hear me roar!! can go anywhere and do anything in life if I want to as long as I try.