My name is Laura Reynoso and I am a junior at Lindsay High. I was born and raised in the central valley and absolutely love living in the small town of Lindsay. Living in Lindsay has most definitely influenced the person I am today. My town has taught me to be humble within the small community and much like the orange trees, has allowed me to blossom into the individual I am today.

Growing up I always seemed to be the distracted child and did not get the best of grades. I was always much more interested in fairy tales, toys, and above all being with my father. I was an only child until I was about nine years old. When my brother was born I was not exactly happy about his existence; I was so used to being the apple of my dad’s eye and my mother’s only responsibility. About two years after my brother was born, he was diagnosed with autism, my family had never heard of this but everyone in the family was distraught regardless. Being eleven years old and having my parents basically taken away from me really made me grow up. I understood the situation and knew that my parents would have to direct their focus and attention to my brother but was still very hurt because I was so close to them.

Autism has really tested my patience but I recognize it as a blessing in disguise; Because of my hardships I know how much I can handle and tolerate. It also made me a responsible young lady, I noticed a difference after stopping relying on my parents, and it was like I got my head out of the clouds. I began to excel in English and raise my grades. In the eighth grade I really went above what was expected of me and finished both eighth and ninth grade English which is one of my achievements that I am most proud of.

Lindsay and Autism are two major aspects of what made me who I am. Another factor that has contributed to making me the person I am today is coming from Mexican parents. My father was born in America but never pursued an education after high school and my mother was born in Mexico. Coming from a family that lacks a higher education has made me really want to attend a university and obtain a good paying career. My parents have always worked very hard to provide me with the best products that have been necessary and have also encouraged me to go attend a university. Now that I am a junior in high school I feel excited for college and am thankful for having encouraging parents.

Having difficulties in my life have really made me grow up and become a responsible young adult. Also having a great support system that includes learning facilitators at Lindsay high and family have allowed me to continue to follow my plan and get the grades necessary to get into the university of my dreams. As my high school graduation nears I reflect on all my years in school. I am glad to be the person I am today and hope that when I leave Lindsay I will be able to continue to represent this small town proudly.