

**\* Your school of college**

## **ESSAY**

**Mentor:**  
**\*name**

**Student:**  
**\*name**

**November, 2010.**

## **What is the best piece of advice you've ever been given, and why?**

The best piece of advice I've ever been given was in Serbian, and I'll translate it the best I can: "*Keep your dignity and never look back, 'cause, if you bite, than bite off!*"<sup>1</sup> This is something my grandfather told me a while ago. This sentence probably makes no sense in English, so I'll try to explain it. The first part, keep your dignity, means that nothing is worth my self confidence and self respect. Whatever I do with my life, or in my life, shouldn't be against my beliefs, ideals and possibilities. On the other hand, I should take every chance life and nemesis gives me in order to reach my goals. The second part, "never look back", means that I should never reconsider my previous actions; I should take them as they are; learn as much as I can from my experience and except all the rewards and consequences.

This, rather short sentence follows every step I make. Whatever kind of a choice I have to make in my life, this piece of advice makes it simple and easy. All I have to do is to estimate which solution is the most possible one, which is the best one, which is the one that will hurt no one and that is usually the only choice I have. For example, when I was given the opportunity to go abroad, I had to think about it. I knew it will hurt my parents, but, on the other hand, it will make them proud. I was also worried about myself, my friends and social life: it is not easy to leave home, family and friends and live in strange country with strange people who have different culture and different habits. I spent some time thinking about it and decided to go for it, and, as my grandfather said, not to look back.

And I didn't. When I have a problem, I think to myself: you are here and deal with it! I can't afford to wonder whether this was the right choice or not.

The third part, "when you bite, bite off", is the best one. Whatever you do, do it with all your heart, do the best you can and be proud of yourself, and never give up because you think something is beyond your reach. And this is where I find strength when I'm exhausted, this is what forces me to make one more step, to read one more page, to write one more letter and make one more phone call. Because, I still didn't bite off!

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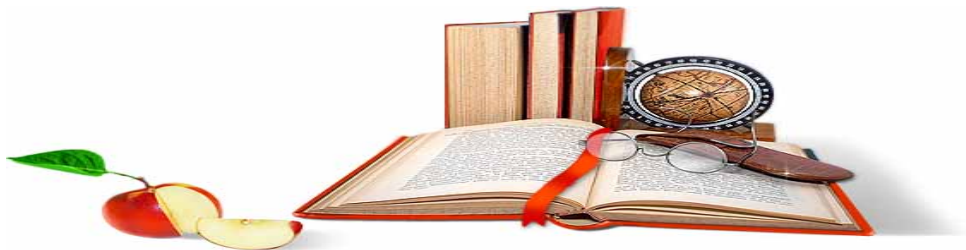
<sup>1</sup> My grandfather speaks irregular Serbian, and I think this is the best possible way to translate his words.

---- OSTATAK TEKSTA NIJE PRIKAZAN. CEO RAD MOŽETE  
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[maturskiradovi.net@gmail.com](mailto:maturskiradovi.net@gmail.com)