

What Being Tall Means To Me

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Height can be a burden, gift, or even both. It took some time for me to figure out what it meant to me and my life. As a child I didn't think of my height as either. I recognized that I was a lot taller than my classmates but it never affected me. As I grew however I began experiencing "growing pains" and found it more and more difficult to find clothes my size and length, this has carried into adolescence where this problem has increased further. Finding clothing does not define who I am as a person, nor does the growing pains I experienced as a child. These aspects of my height have allowed me to figure out what my height means to me.

When I was six years old I began playing lacrosse. I enjoyed this sport early on and ended up playing it for six years before stopping when the covid pandemic hit. As I reached my final years of playing lacrosse I realized I had lost my love and passion for the sport, I felt that it demanded too much of me from a young age. I also felt people made the assumption that because of my height I automatically liked the sport and was therefore good at it. After taking a break from athletics entirely I began playing volleyball at my school during grades six and seven. During this time I became very fond of it, becoming an obsession of mine. Since then I have been playing volleyball in and outside of school. I am currently a part of the Ducks Volleyball Club and represent the U18 team. Volleyball is a big part of my life, not only because I find it to be like a second home but also because It is a place where I can be recognized for my height and dedication. My height allows me to be successful on the court which I am grateful for, my height also allows me to fulfill my role as a middle blocker to the fullest extent. This sport has allowed me to view my height as a gift, without it I may have still believed that my height was more of a burden which in my case is not true as it has also given me the opportunity to play volleyball

post-secondary and allowed me to represent Team BC last summer. Not only is my height a gift, it is also a large part of who I am. Most people at my school know who I am because of my height which I find to be quite awesome. Recently as a part of my school's yearbook I was named the tallest female which I held as a great honor. I appreciate those who recognize my height and understand that it does not define me fully. In some instances I have been defined fully based on my height which as I've grown learnt to get used to.

“I love my height”, It took me a while to be able to say that sentence with confidence but with the help of my friends and family, volleyball, and school I can now truly say I love my height. Being tall has come with challenges and hardships, but it has also brought me home and support from many, it is a large part of who I am and I don't think I would be able to imagine myself any shorter than I am now. If a younger version of myself were given the opportunity to read this essay, I'd say she would be quite pleased with the person she has become, being able to accept her height as a part of who she is. Above all my height no longer defines me fully and I've learnt that I am much more than the obvious, “tall”.