Writing a Winning College Admission Essay
Challenging a Life Belief/Idea

My life as a 4th born in a poor family was nothing anyone would ever wish to have gone through, especially at a young age. My parents, both of whom never had the chance to attend any elementary school, had the challenge of taking care of the family. Sustaining a meal for the entire family was something so hard that sometimes we skipped meals, and there were other days where we went without any meal at all.

Shelter and clothing are something that is considered basic in any social class. It was a norm for us when we at times walked around with tattered clothes while the house we lived in was a poorly-maintained shanty. I remember us sharing a single bed, and sometimes the blankets were not enough for all of us in the house. One thing about my parents is that they always encouraged us with the mantra that everything would be okay one day. Without a shred of doubt, I also believed that, one day, there would be a turn of events where I would secure my family a decent and basic life like that accessible to the middle and upper social classes.

Education, especially for a girl like myself in a Muslim dominated society, was something highly ridiculed. The place of a woman was traditionally set to be in the kitchen, farm, and taking care of the children at home. Education was for the men; the few who would win scholarships to go abroad and further their studies. These are the few individuals who would later secure lucrative government positions for their levels of education. They, however, say that no situation in life is too permanent to change. This statement was amongst my guiding principles and I vowed to one day change the course of such incidences (ASHBERY, pp. 1-2). The genesis of my success to where I am today was when I defied the odds and enrolled in school to get an education. Despite the discrimination and gender profiling owing to the fact that I was a young girl, I got good grades and was occasionally among the top students in class. Success comes
to those who wait, but I believed that success comes to those who go a greater mile to get it.

I got the chance to get a scholarship for my high school education. This is a chance that I held so dearly as I clearly understood what this meant and how important it was in shaping my life. I successfully completed high school, after which I entered college where I pursued a degree in finance and investment analysis. This was a call to other marginalized girls and boys, who never had the chance to attend classes, that anything is possible with the proper willpower. Today I am amongst the sought-after investment bankers and financial analysts working with Deloitte Touche, an international audit and consulting firm. I have been able to support my family with what I earn. The poverty that we languished in led me to seek a solution which I gladly attained. Now, if I ever need to solve a problem, I could do so anytime now (Kass, pp. 17). I became a go-getter, and therefore would now be able to resiliently break through if presented with a similar predicament in life.