



## **People are made of their knowledge**

My name is Manuel Brito and I was born in the Dominican Republic. I am 18 years old. I had lived in the USA for 10 months. In school, my favorite subject is English Language Arts and when I am out of school, I like to watch movies and shows and then criticize them if they were “good” or “boring”. I am particularly good at cooking. I became good at this because there was a period of my life where I lived alone so I had to cook by myself. In the future, I would like to become a Biomedical Engineer. I dream of making people happy and help them.

I immigrated to New York in January 2017. My life changed in many ways when I immigrated. The change I’m happiest about is how I opened my mind to a new world and learned a new language and get to know new cultures because a person is made of his/her knowledge and this is helping me in incredible ways. On the other hand, I am sad that I left my country and my mom and friends, however, I am always in contact with them. Now I speak Spanish and ENGLISH, which is AWESOME.

There was a time in my life when I experienced injustice. This was the time when I got to school. They told me to take Living Environment a class that I took in the Dominican Republic. I was telling them, “I don’t want to take that class” and they said: “You have to take it, so you can graduate.” Anyway, I took the class even though my English wasn’t that good back then. The teacher never paid attention to me and I was always behind. By the end of the semester, I had to take the Regents Exams. I couldn’t take Living Environment Regents because she told me, “You don’t have labs enough to take them and you don’t have time to make them up.” I think that she concluded that I was unable to make them up because of my difficulties in the language. In my opinion, this was

unjust because I was able to do my work like everyone else and she took away my opportunity to take the Regents Exams because she decided to limit my potential to learn.