A great philosopher once said, “The root of education is bitter, but the fruit is sweet.” (Aristotle). Aristotle was an inspirational philosopher during his time and many of his works are still used today but as the quote says “The root of education is bitter…” What he means when he says education is bitter is that some concepts are hard to swallow just like David Mirmans and Dr. Skip Downings concept of being a Victim or Creator. Some of us may not agree with their concept of Victims and Creators but in actuality this concept is what sets us on the right course to be academically successful throughout college. By adopting the concept of being a Creator our path towards being successful and getting towards everyone’s goals in life will come easier than it would if we didn’t take the initiative to overcome the small obstacles that may come our way. Aristotle also says “…but the fruit is sweet” which refers to the outcome of all the hard work we put into our education. Creators are people who constantly make the choices which create the favorable outcomes they wish for (Downing 42). Victims are generally people that make excuses that neither benefit the situation nor help them achieve their overall goal. College demands a lot of responsibility, which Mirman shows us in his blog, we will learn how to be a creator by realizing how hard we all make it harder for ourselves playing the victim in a situation, and will also demonstrate a creator who plays the role in a respectful and positive way.

Mirman is a famous professor who created the blog “Are you the prime mover”. In Mirmans blog he explains the difference between a victim and a creator by giving us a scenario with two students trying to get a textbook for their class. Mirman gives us the scenario where a college bookstore did not order enough texts books and two student where left without textbooks, so the professor gave the two students until the 2nd week of class to purchase the book. The two weeks pass and the first student came into class and explained to the professor that she did not get the textbook because the bookstore still did not have the textbook. While the second student came into class with her textbook and explained to the professor how she had purchased the book first she explained how she visited multiple campuses searching for the book and unfortunately was unable to find it, she then went on to tell the professor how she went online and found the book at a cheaper price and with the money she saved from the book she got 2 day shipping and received the book before class. At the end of the day one student was able to get the book while the other just kind of didn’t really care enough to look for it. Mirman also went on in his blog giving us his definition of a Victim and Creator, as a Victim they will find, “excuses in a negative situation, which is generally unhelpful in a situation” (Mirman), while a creator finds a way to find an alternative to reach his or her success.

We have all witnessed someone playing the victim at least once in our lifetime, we have seen some of the most ridiculous excuses. I am guilty of playing the victim multiple times, but a situation where I played the victim was when I would skip class during high school and they called my parents. So I would skip my Spanish class almost every day (I had this class every other morning at 7:20 A.M), a lot of us would go out for breakfast at Ihop or some other restaurant close to the school. Every other day my parents would get phone calls from the school saying I was absent for Spanish and occasionally other classes. So every time she asked me why I was marked absent and I told her that “I had a substitute that marked me absent” or “Oh! I came in late but they marked me absent for that class.” One day, administration scheduled a parent and teacher conference, while I was in the conference I never blamed myself for missing class I found myself saying “It wasn’t my fault because I missed the bus” or “I had to walk to school.” I knew my lying and finding excuses for not being able to make it to school where not going to get me anywhere in life.

We know so many creators in this world that have overcome what seemed to be the impossible, like Michael Jordan or Steve Jobs. The story behind these well-known people are widely known, but there are also everyday creators we talk to or see out on campus. A Creator I personally know is my mother, she has sacrificed so much just for me and my brother’s well-being. She went to Campbell University and studied while she took care of us and had two jobs, it seemed impossible but she made it happen. I remember her telling how hard she had it growing up and how if she had stayed with my father we wouldn’t be doing as well as we were at that point. She always told me how my father, brother, she and I lived in a shed and that every night she would not sleep because she was scared the rats would eat me (I was a baby at that time). But throughout the lights and water being cut off she found a way to get all those things turned back on.

 I choose to be a Creator because why would I make it harder to pursue my favorable outcome in life? I will stop all the procrastination and making excuses to why I failed my assignments. So many people go day to day thinking they have no control over their future and many people will encourage you not to think that way because we are all creators by heart. No one in this world should be restricted to reach their full potential. Always remember the wise words Aristotle once said which was, “The root of education is bitter, but the fruit is sweet.” We are all Creators, we are all capable of reaching the sky, and we are capable of making a difference in this world.

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