

Dear Scholarship Committee,

My name is Solomiya Dezhnyuk. I've gone through many physical challenges and health adversities in my life while being in school. Having to be taken out of school for long periods of time wasn't easy. But school mattered to me. The hardest year of adversity was my senior year and for me senior year was a big deal. I wanted to be involved in everything despite my severe scoliosis. Although many people suggested that I should drop out, I didn't let my circumstances stop me from succeeding. All I had to do was work a little bit extra.

On top of working hard, I was blessed with amazing teachers who were understanding and supporting. They never penalized me from coming late to class or turning in an assignment late. The most important thing to them was that I was trying and that I was understanding the information.

My graduation day was an emotional day. To look back on my life and see all that I accomplished through adversity is unbelievable. God gave me the strength, people, and self-control that I needed to help me get through public education. I persevered through the hard times and I finally see the light at the end of the tunnel. Graduating high school on track while being involved in extracurricular activities was one of the biggest accomplishments of my life so far. Now that my health is better than it's been in a while because of my last surgery, I am able to be in college. I'm excited to see where God will lead me. College has been a blast. I'm starting to join extracurricular activities in order to contribute more to the community.

Life is precious. We cannot take it for granted. In the end, what really matters is how you choose to react in times of adversity. If you choose to fight, you'll come out stronger in the end. I'd say that in times of hardship, it's important to be determined and lean on God for strength.

Sincerely, Solomiya Dezhnyuk