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I Woke Up

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Rufus, Emmett J., "I Woke Up"

(Essay prompt: If you could have one superpower what would it be and why?)

Have you ever woke up one morning and felt tired, exhausted, humiliated, embarrassed, and small? I have! I have now been incarcerated over 15 years and approximately 11 years into my 17 year 11 month sentence "I woke up" with a realization: not only did I have to be different, but I had to do something different in order to be different.

My entire life, I never cared who I hurt. That was easy for me because I didn't have to care about anyone but myself. Through my incarceration, I continued with the same attitude and did a lot of the same things that landed me in prison to begin with: lie, steal, cheat, and deceive. When I was sentenced to the department of rehabilitation and corrections I always assumed that the rehabilitation process would come around eventually. I just had no idea where and when.

I always thought that because I had so much time it would just happen; someone here would assist me and it wouldn't take much effort on my part considering this is the department of rehabilitation and corrections. Never did I expect to wake up realizing that I was the only one who could and would rehabilitate me. Never did I think that I would have the courage to even acknowledge that I needed to be rehabilitated. So if I had one super power mine would be Rehabilitation Realization: the power to wake up individuals around me. Rehabilitation is needed, and it's not going to be handed to you. Rehabilitation is easy. Rehabilitation feels good! That's coming from a person who always knew the definition of empathy but never felt it until "I woke up."

Now that I'm awake my eyes will stay wide. I will stay aware, and I will do anything I can to help wake up others around me. I'm sure there are others who think the same as I did and

are waiting for someone or something to rehabilitate them. Little do they know that's never going to happen if they're not awake. That is why I need the power of Rehabilitation Realization to encourage, help, and motivate those around me so they too can "wake up!"

Genre: Essay

Tags: Rehabilitation