

THERE IS JUST SOMETHING ABOUT ME...

Haiku

Mom's love and wisdom

Utilize your resources

Number one advice

Spoken Word

I am the daughter of a Jamaican Warrior
And the first born for a Jamaican King
I am a friend to my sisters, and a sister to
my friends

There is just something about me....

I am sometimes the only one in a room full
of many's

I am sometimes insecure in a room by
myself

An aspiring artist, I am an observer
An intellectual in my own right, and my
own left
My mind is beautiful

As a student I am hungry
And now as a teacher I am an architect
My students are construction workers
creating a foundation to build social,
artistic, and intellectual tastes and a
desire to be full

As I teach them, I learn patience, love,
disappointment, perseverance,

exhaustion, and joy
As a sister I learn true love and sacrifice
As a friend I learn support
As a daughter I learn loss
As a scholar I learn freedom
As woman I learn acceptance
As a lover I learn the meaning devotion
As a believer I learn submission

There is just something about me...

Born in Jamaica, raised in the states
I am a code switcher
My roots are planted firmly in my island
My branches stretch, stretch across the
world

There is just something about me...

Small in stature, great in presence
Quite power, that speaks volumes
I am love

Daughter of a Warrior, first born of a King

There is just something about me...

Standard Essay

Names are very powerful they can speak greatness into your life, before you even know who you are. My first name Nneka, means, Mother is Supreme, and my middle name, Adjie, means May you live to see good fortune. With my African name, Jamaican nationality, and Jamaican American upbringing I am an amalgamation of all those things.

An Alumnus of the University of Florida, the four years that I spent at my university changed the course of my life forever. In a short time I became a scholar, researcher, social activist, leader, world traveler, and woman. By the end of my freshman year I realized I did not want to be a medical doctor like I thought, but I still wanted to be a doctor. That is when I decided to get my PhD but, in what subject area? I was a Psychology major and African American studies minor, surely by the end of my four years one of those subjects would give me some direction, but I was in no rush. One of the most important things that I have learned after graduating is that the hardest part of college is not getting in but staying in. The biggest tragedy in my life happened when I was at school but it also set me up for some of the biggest victories that I experienced.

In the fall of my sophomore year my mother passed away on a Monday at the beginning of the semester; and my whole world changed. In the space of one day, everything shifted. At that moment school was not even important. I took the semester off to get my life in order. I had to plan a funeral, move to a new state, and start a new life. But one semester later I was back in school, because that is what I needed. My mother was my support and after she died I had to support myself. Her death forced me to be courageous; by the end of my four years I had traveled to France and South Africa, conducted research, became Vice President of an organization and a stronger woman. Through amazing academic examples, perseverance, tears, humility, tears and guidance I succeeded beyond anything that I could have planned.

I am going to graduate school because I am not done learning. The first four years were an appetizer and the years to come will be my main course. An opportunity to delve into the areas that I only got to graze the surface of in undergrad. I will succeed in graduate school because I have a clear vision of what I want and where I am going. Now it is a matter of manifesting what I already know is true. I will succeed because I have done it before. I will succeed because now as a 1st grade teacher, the word hard work has taken on a whole new meaning and anything after this will be small compared to the obstacles in front of me now.

I want to study Public Health and African American Studies. I will be attending Emory's Rollins School of Public Health for my Master's in Behavioral Education. After I receive my Master's I will pursue a PhD in African-American Studies. I would like to do community outreach and education in Black communities focused on preventative health issues that plague people of color. I am also interested in conducting research and teaching at the university level. I am Mother Supreme, May you live to see good fortune Bennett, and I am doing great things.

Educational Autobiography

A. Identity, Environment, & Standpoint

Ecology (Richards)

Self

I am growing and learning so much about what it means to be me. So right now I am under construction and it feels amazing; for now just call me artist, woman, believer and lover.

Community

At this moment in my life the communities that are most salient to me are Black, educator, Christian, and single. Each community has its own unique joys and challenges.

World & natural resources

I want to see it all and do it all. There is nowhere in the world that is too far. I am excited for the cultural exchange that I will experience domestically and internationally.

Cultural Identity

Social Location

Self

Sex-Female

Class-middle class/Bachelors degree/teacher/U.S. citizen

Age-24/ 80's baby

Ability-no physical disabilities/mentally strong with brief dips/ visual learner

Affiliations-Jamaican/Floridian/Undecided politically/Black/Teach For America, New Orleans-Who Dat!/Gator

Artifacts-Jamaican flag/ natural hair

Race-Black

Religion-Christian, I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me, he is in control

Size-5'1/ good health

Communities

Young, Black, female, Teach For America, Jamaican, Christian

Institution/Nation

I do not want to be a bystander. I would like to be a catalyst for change, a contributor to the empowerment and education of the communities that I represent.

World

Eager participant

Personal history of education

Locations

Gainesville, France, South Africa, New Orleans, Atlanta

key events/people

Being an African American studies minor changed my experience in school for the better. And so I must recognize and thank all of my professors: Dr. Evans, Dr. Conwill, Dr. Harrison, and Dr. Hilliard-Nunn. I must also acknowledge people who were not my teachers in the classroom, but they still mentored me and taught me: Dr. Mills, Dr. Maynard-Pemba, Dr. Robinson, Ms. Daniels, Mr. Wade, Dr. Greene, Mrs. Teresa, Mrs. Bonita, Pastor Cowart and Dr. Earle

favorite books

The Coldest Winter Ever; Push; Eat, Pray, Love; Love Poems; Ego Trippin; Bicycles

challenges

My mother's death, choosing my own path, teaching

victories

Traveling, living on my own and truly supporting myself, Bachelors degree, Emory, teaching

B. Questions, Values, & Philosophy

What is the main question you have about your educational/professional future?

What will my contribution be?

Educational beliefs / philosophy

Utilize your resources

Perseverance

Hard work is the only way

Work smarter, efficiency is key

Ask questions, and seek the answers

Be kind

Faith is the belief in things unseen

Speak what you want in to existence. Words are very powerful

Values

1. Spirituality, faith
2. Strength
3. Self autonomy, self esteem
4. Love/intimacy/affection
5. Health
6. Security, safety, stability

7. Self-fulfillment
8. Knowledge, expertise
9. Ability to listen and compromise
10. Social consciousness, service

C. Academic & Professional Goals & Competence

Educational goals and reason for choosing major or thesis/dissertation topic

I want to study Public Health and African American Studies. I will be attending Emory's Rollins School of Public Health for my Master's in Behavioral Education focusing on HIV/AIDS. After I receive my Master's I will pursue a PhD in African-American studies.

Professional goals

I would like to do community outreach and education in Black communities focused on preventative health issues that plague people of color. I am also interested in teaching at the university level. I would also like to travel and experience different cultures, through my work.

Three academic/professional role models (in three different eras of history--must share your major or job)

Nikki Giovanni as a teacher and an artist is great inspiration in life. She matches the intellectual with the artistic in such a beautiful way. Marcus Garvey as fearless defender of Black African rights. As a person of Jamaican descent fighting for the rights of people of the African Diaspora, Garvey represents who I want to be as a professional. And most importantly my mother, Zeta Samuels; as a health care professional herself my mother's example gives me the desire to want to help others. My mother's dedication as a mother, woman, survivor charges me to be the same.