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Country: USA

Organization: The Bully Suicide Project.

Solution: Pres./CEO,

The Bully Suicide Project - Survivor Stories(1)

1. Tell Me About Yourself (What are your hobbies, beliefs, likes, etc)

My name is Joshua Metzger, and I am 20 yrs old. I am applying for my Graduate degree in Architecture, which pretty much tells you how I am in a nutshell. I love art and design and it fuels my life on a day to day basis. I am a spiritual person, and try to connect to my high power every day.

2. Tell Me About Your Personality

I am burst of different personalities. I am very outgoing, and smile a lot. Being as creative as I am, I like to talk with my hands and am very interactive with my body language. I try to look at things from an artistic eye which in return can make me seem quirky and at times a little bizarre.

3. Tell me about the First Time you remember being bullied (where, how you felt, the names, you were called, how you dealt with it).

The first time I remembered being bullied was when I was in elementary school. The other kids would laugh at me, and never want to play. The other boys said I talked like a girl and that I was a sissy. Also in grade school I remember a girl by the name of Lisa Antonio, I got my hair cut and the next day when she saw me she said to my face "You look like a fag." All throughout grade school and even into the first part of high school I was bullied. Name calling was the worst and as I got older it grew to more extremes. I remember walking to the car my freshman year of high school and being hit in the head with clumps of broken cement while being called names.

4. Names you have been called

Fag, Faggot, Queer, Sissy, Queer boy, Butt Pirate, Girl, Girly, Gay, Homo, fairy,

5. Tell Me About how bullying has effected you

Bullying affected my every day interaction with the other kids. It made me become sad and made me feel as though I was bad because I was different. Other kids were so mean and hateful that it caused me to hate school and made work harder to get done quicker. I graduated early at the age of 16 because I hated most everyone I had to be around when I was in school.

6. Have you thought about suicide? If so, what did you do about it.

When I was younger I did think about suicide. Teachers would hear other kids talking and call my parents because they were afraid I may do something to myself. Luckily for me it never passed the contemplation stage, but the emotions I felt when I did, could have easily driven me further.

7. What are ways you have dealt with suicidal thoughts?

I learned how to do art. I started in photography and then transitioned into painting and drawing. For me it was easier to get my emotions down into a visual sense than it was to talk about it.

8. What makes you a survivor?

What makes me a survivor is that I was a young gay man, who despite all of the harassment I received, was still able to become the person I wanted. I came out of the closet in 7th grade even knowing that it would cause more grief, but I did not want to be someone other than who I was. My story is one that I am sure other people are going through and may not know that someone else has been there before.

9. What is your message of hope to the person just like yourself?

That it is extremely rewarding and highly respectable in the long run, to be who you are from the start and value your differences than try to fit in with others that are merely following trends and or ideas of who and how someone should be.

10. The quote that you live by today because of your experience is...

"Are we to paint what's on the face, what's inside the face, or what's behind it?" Pablo Picasso

The Bully Suicide Project :

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