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You will need to carefully read the selection below and complete various activities using the essay as your basis.

Using the highlight function on your computer, you will need to mark the essay below. It will be necessary for you to read the essay several times to fully understand the essay and complete the markings in such a way that demonstrates a close reading of the essay. You will need to use the following chart to correctly mark the essay.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Highlight Color | Item to be identified | Use an X to indicate you have accomplished this task. Use NA if this task did not apply to this essay. |
| PINK | Mark the main idea of the essay. |  |
| AQUA | Mark key examples/ support for the main idea/ theme of the essay. |  |
| GREEN | Mark statements that you agree with . |  |
| YELLOW | Mark statements that are new to you or make you think in a new way. |  |
| RED | Mark statements in the essay that you disagree with. |  |
| GRAY | Mark terms/ concepts that you found difficult to understand. |  |

The time I began reading and marking this assignment was:

I truly believe that acceptance is the key to all of my serenity. I never practiced acceptance until I attempted to get sober in 1988. Today I practice acceptance on a daily basis.

It was July 4th, 2009. I was doing my usual thing. Partying and drinking as accustomed to. I was in an auto accident and woke up in Hurley Hospital the next morning.

Having had some severe injuries, I was forced to lose my job, and stay in bed healing for a month. The most severe was a cracked vertebra. The doctors said it would heal well the way it was.

Throughout the summer I tried to regain my strength. I went hunting one early October evening, and while sitting still in my blind, an 8 point buck came softly by. I took the shot and stuck him right in the kill zone. As I was dragging him out of the woods, I felt a snap in my back and then instant pain. The next day I saw my family doctor, and they found that I had I had broken my T-11 vertebra, the one cracked before in my accident. This meant surgery, in which my insurance would not cover so I was forced to file for Medicaid.

In early January I was accepted for Medicaid. In my surgery the surgeon, the well- known man he was, had to re-break my vertebra and cement it back together. My back has not been the same since.

As the months progressed, I came to the conclusion, with my doctors’ opinion, that I could no longer do the work I was accustomed of doing. This was extremely hard for me to accept. As time went along my self-esteem got lower and lower, for I felt useless as a man. I started drinking more and more and abusing my pain medications. My life was going nowhere and I was out of control.

In early January this year, 2013, I had a life changing experience once again. Instead of waking up in the hospital, I woke up in jail. I looked around as nothing looked familiar, and did not know where I was. I found myself in the Shiawassee County Jail. This dramatic trauma leads me back onto the right path to a better way of living. I stopped drinking, stopped abusing my medications, and in fact, stopped taking any narcotic medicine all together.

I realize I cannot change people, places, and things. I have to accept the things the way they are today. So I decided to go to school so that I can get back to work and become a better member of society.

Without acceptance in my life, this would be practically impossible for me. Today I know that I need to “accept then things I cannot change, to have the courage to change the things that I can, and the wisdom to know the difference” between the two. Acceptance is the key to my journey in life.