The roaring noise of horses groaning, cows mooing, and chickens clucking accompanied by the pungent smell of manure. Huge empty fields of corn with a small house located nearby. A hand-built brick home with a small wooden door surrounded by cacti with beautiful rustic outdoor decor. In the house of Alfredo Lopez, there was always the savory smell of freshly baked conchas and coffee. Alfredo was fresh out of high school. His daily routine consisting of waking up at 5 a.m. to feed the animals, milking the cows at 6 a.m., heading to school, returning home, doing his chores, and playing soccer with his village friends. Life in Mexico at this time was difficult. Unemployment was at an all-time high due to the economic crisis caused by the falling price of oil. Most of his older brothers and sisters were in the United States working intense labor jobs to help support their parents in Mexico. He claimed ǵI was tired of struggling, I wanted to live h ome to America, he took. He stated, ǵI saw it ticket to freedom away from oppression and struggle.ǵ Alfredo was set on leaving his family and his hometown of Josefino de Allende, Jalisco, Mexico. The land he was raised on has a deep, rich family history that goes back years. It was a heartfelt moment, and it took Alfredo a bit to ponder if leaving the only place heǵd ever known was the right decision. Since his siblings had already made the big move to America, he felt a bit more comfortable leaving as he wouldnǵt be completely alone in a new country. His parents were sorrowful about him leaving, but they wanted the best for him. They wished him the best and told him, ǵI better not see you come back, a good life wonǵt be hande] e] ńTRGGLING, I
WANTED TO LIVE IN
A COUNTRY THAT
WOULD BE
PROSPEROUS FOR
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PERSPECTIVES ON SUCCESS

She had a tough upbringing being the child of an alcoholic mother and an absent father. Her mother made poor decisions inflicting trauma on her children, causing them to have to grow up at a young age. They had to navigate the world, learn life lessons, and endure trauma all on their own. She learned a lot of valuable lessons like being independent and never giving up. It was her dream to be able to afford a grand house with a brand-new luxury car. Not having an attentive and present mother gave rise to Lavinia committing a plethora of mistakes.

The year was 1985, the year Alfredo decided to make the journey across the US-Mexico border. He was unsure if it was worth the risk of coming to America. However, his friends and his family who were already in America, had convinced him it was for the best. The journey across was difficult, strenuous, and laborious. He had begun the trip with a group of friends who had connections to help them cross. He was detailing the journey ά It was hard for me to trust another man beghD

PERSPECTIVES ON SUCCESS

Lavinia was offended by this conventional way of life as she thought it was degrading to her because she was a woman. ǫJust because Iõm a woman does not mean I canõt work, a woman can be strong and independent too,õ she exclaimed pridefully. Coming from a different country with a completely different culture can be a bit of a struggle to adjust to. Lavinia struggled to adjust to Alfredo's viewpoints, but she grew to be patient and understand him. Alfredo was satisfied with his life and career, he was in a comfortable position. Lavinia was not satisfied with this, she wanted him to advance on because she was understanding of the fact that Alfredo had the potential. He was intelligent and good at working with his hands, he was capable of being able to advance on. In Mexico, most of the time people stay with a comfortable lifestyle rather than advance. In America, people prefer to continue climbing the ranks to become better. This was a major shift compared to what Alfredo grew up with in Mexico, a location where people arenõt focused on materialistic things. Coming from a small village to a big city, the differences in their perspectives on success are evident. People in cities are more materialistic compared to those in small villages in a country with major economic issues. Most people from these villages are grateful that they are even in a position to afford basic necessities.

This is the story of my parents. Coming from a different country with different cultural beliefs truly has a major effect on what kind of person they are. Having a different upbringing can also mean a different view on things in life. Different emotional, economic, or social life can all depend on how a person grew up. My father's upbringing was positive, laborious, and tough. In the Mexican culture, the man of the house must have a strong and stable job. A good relationship with their family is also important to the Mexican culture. However, in America, it is quite different. Based on what Lavinia learned growing up, Americans prefer to always keep advancing

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