

*I have found inspiration in both Black Americans that I know and Black Americans that I have learned about in school. The person that has provided me with a great amount of inspiration is my maternal grandmother. Her remarkable journey has been a beacon of inspiration guiding me towards my dreams. Despite facing the limitation of not having a high school diploma, she created a path of resilience, determination, and success that continues to shape my life.*

*My grandmother's life unfolded in a time where opportunities for Black women were scarce, and there were educational disparities. Despite the challenges, she demonstrated an unyielding spirit, showing me that one's potential is not confined by academic credentials. Instead, potential is fueled by passion, tenacity, and an unshakeable belief in oneself.*

*Her journey into the professional world, securing management positions without a formal education, speaks volumes about the power of hard work and perseverance. In a society that often undervalues the potential of individuals without a diploma, my grandmother shattered stereotypes and proved that determination can bridge the gap between dreams and reality.*

*With her successfully raising three children, navigating a career and being a wife given her educational and financial hardships, further solidified the image of a formidable woman capable of overcoming any obstacle. She instilled in me the importance of resilience, emphasizing that setbacks are not roadblocks but opportunities for growth. Her ability to navigate the complexities of life with grace, strength, and love fueled my determination to pursue my dreams, even in the face of adversity.*

*My grandmother's legacy extends beyond professional accomplishments; it encompasses the unwavering love and support she showered upon her family. Her sacrifices fueled a sense of responsibility within me to honor her resilience by pushing boundaries and challenging societal expectations. She became proof that success is not determined solely by degrees but by the passion and dedication invested in one's pursuits.*

*During the next phase of my educational journey, I carry with me the lessons learned from my grandmother's life. Her story pushes me forward, reminding me that the pursuit of knowledge is not confined to a classroom. It is an evolving journey shaped by experience, determination, and a relentless pursuit of excellence.*

*In the face of societal norms that may attempt to define my capabilities based on background or circumstances, I draw strength from my grandmother's narrative. She stands as a testament to the idea that dreams are achievable irrespective of the challenges I may face. I use her as an example to show that I can break barriers, challenge expectations, and reach heights that may have seemed insurmountable. My grandmother's impact on my life is immeasurable. Her journey without a high school education is my reminder that success is not predetermined by societal standards. Success is shaped by resilience, determination, and an unyielding belief in yourself. As I navigate my own path, I carry the torch of her legacy, fueled by the inspiration to use my education to turn my dreams into reality.*