My Life Changed

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"You are giving a speech in English?   You must be kidding, right?   I can't believe it." My friend said to me.   About one and a half years ago, I would have felt the same. It was impossible for me to give a speech in English.   I was poor at English and above all I had nothing to speak of.   But now I'm standing here hoping to hand something down about my life.   I'll tell you the reason for the change of my mind.

It is not too much to say that my first and second years at college have been totally lost.   In those days studying was just boring.   I was always discontented with my grade, though I made no effort at all.   I hated my college more and more and I loafed around everyday, sitting in class half-heartedly and passing time with my friends aimlessly.

At the end of the second year, I had bad flu.   While away from school, lying on my bed with lingering fever, I was thinking about various things.   I looked back on how I had lived and tried to count up what I had achieved until then.   But I could remember almost nothing.   It seemed to me that I had no good memories and I was not sure if I had learned anything at all at college.   I wondered what I wanted to do in my life.   I thought I had wasted my time.

I had a vague plan for the future.   I dreamed and still dream of getting knowledge of all the laws of nature.   I believe there are still many things nobody knows in this world and universe.   Perhaps what modern people imagine as magic or fantasy could be made into a reality someday.   Jet planes and computers were beyond people's knowledge in the early times.   Perhaps we can make a time machine someday.   Is it possible to know, with our limited knowledge of this world?   I have dreamed of pushing forward the boundaries of knowledge and searching for new uses of it to make something entirely new.   The flu gave me an opportunity to take up my dream again. I knew it required the deep knowledge of physics and mathematics and I thought my school curriculum was insufficient for it.

After recovering from the flu, I determined to take the entrance examination for a mathematics department at a university.   During the whole of the next year, I studied

furiously. I spent my summer holidays studying over ten hours a day. I enjoyed studying. I remember those days very clearly. It was as if my life suddenly became vivid and colorful, being switched from those monochrome days.

Despite my efforts, I failed the test. Now my plans faced difficulties. But I had no regrets. I was satisfied that I did my best and I felt great. I had heard many times that it's important to try your best to accomplish an aim. I realized then for the first time that it was true. This was the turning point of my life. I felt something changed in my mind. A strong will was growing in me to try anything and absorb as much new knowledge and skills as I could. Actually, all the effort I made for the examination broadened my view and I became aware of the numerous ways to know this world. I came to know that my school curriculum offers many spheres to research and I have a lot to learn at this college. I became interested in English, too. As one of the ways to improve my English, a teacher suggested to me that I do this speech contest.

That is how I decided to take part in this contest. Thanks to the bad flu, I got an important experience of life. And thanks to this contest, I was able to give shape to the change of my mind.

Thank you.