My Memoir

My memoir starts at the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year. It was September, and I just started 8th grade. This year was going to be fun and, I thought, it might be my last year at this school. Mind you, this was a mostly white private, <u>CHRISTIAN</u> school. I attended this school for a long time. So I arrive on the first day of school and one of my so-called friends asks for the "N-WORD pass." I obviously said no but didn't think much of it. The whole day went pretty well until he asked again. I said to him, "If I said no before, what makes you think that I changed my mind?" He thought that he was funny and had his racist little friends supporting him. Although looking back, I wished I had done more in that situation. Maybe if I stood up I could have prevented more negative situations going forward.

Some new kids came to my school that year. Most of them were pretty cool, <u>NOT RACIST!</u> There was this new girl that came from a public school that was chill. We became friends and she stood up to some of the racist jokes. There was this one memory that I can't forget. One kid said to the new girl, "You're white so why are you defending him." She said that she wasn't white but she was <u>ITALIAN</u>. I laughed because she was white and she claimed not to be. It was stupid for me to laugh, but I'll never do that again. A lot of the jokes were pretty extreme, but I guess everyone has their sense of humor. Now, I don't want anyone to think that I liked these jokes. In fact, I stood up to jokes such as the racist ones. It wasn't easy but it felt good knowing that I stood up to a racist guy. Of course, I was called names but it was cool because I would put people in their place.

If anything racist was going to happen, it would be at lunch. Lunch was a special time. It was more fun than anything but there were more jokes made. At lunch, I hung out with my friends. I had a lot of friends, so I would switch tables a lot. This is probably why I got in trouble

a few times. One time, I was hanging out with the racist kids. I know this was a bad idea, but back then I was different. My humor was different. An Asian friend comes up to the table right next to me and my friends. One of my friends said, "He is probably good at math because he Asian." I hit my friend next to me. I thought it was not funny. My Asian friend was not doing anything wrong. I kept my distance from that group for a while. I hung out with other people. As I said, I knew a lot of people.

After that incident I thought it would be best to do more. I tried to help other kids by telling my friends to "chill out" or to "relax." I said relax a lot because jokes are funny until they go too far. Then the virus hit. In a way, it helped some of the kids not get bullied. At least not in person. I think the virus gave me a new perspective. I decided to leave my school and all my friends. I was just growing up and they were still making jokes that aren't funny anymore. Well, they are not funny to me. I found a new school, Science Leadership Academy (SLA). My father told me that things would be different at SLA. I assumed he meant that people would be more mature. So far, it's been a good experience. The people seem to better embrace diversity. I guess the moral of my story is that If you see something that is wrong, try your best to stop it.