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My Inspirational Teacher

The first day of Mrs. Edstrom's AP Physics C was my only unordinary class. I expected the typical 'first day of school' itinerary, but instead Mrs. Edstrom gave us a lab on friction. I think to myself '*Damn, a lab on the first day?*' Before we get to work, Mrs. Edstrom gives the standard introduction to herself and what we are doing, and while most of it I forgot, I firmly remember her stating '*Do not give up on this course. If you are concerned, talk to me.*' Feelings of assurance crossed my thoughts, but to the tablemate that had accidentally been placed in the class with no required prerequisite courses completed, unease was felt. The next day, the tablemate wasn't present.

Mrs. Edstrom frowned when she realized he was missing, disappointed in herself for not getting a chance to talk to the kid. Her tone of voice grew upsetting and her body posture briefly weakened. I'm amazed, thinking '*She really is upset she didn't get a chance to convince a kid who has never taken a physics course to stay in her college level class?*' The first impression I got from Mrs. Edstrom was that she was willing and able to face the toughest situations head-on. Over the course of the semester, I got to know more about her previous life experiences, hobbies, and education. I learned she was originally interested in engineering out of high school, one of the most rigorous college majors available, and that she regularly participated in mud runs for fun? It would take a significant sum of money for me to run through mud on my Saturday morning, let alone recreationally. The actions of her spoke for the character she possesses, and a feeling of admiration started to develop within me.

Through other conversations, I quickly saw her passion for physics and her job. Whenever we learn a topic, it seems like she has the coolest ways to connect it for us. During our first semester when learning universal gravitation, she brought out the 'geek' in me and shared the service that gives you updates on when the International Space Station flies over. I will say, waking up at 5 AM the next day to watch with my Mom the small star-like object cross the sky for 5 minutes was incredibly worth it.

Mrs. Edstrom and the experience in her class has inspired me to feel passion for my college major Civil Engineering, but also to be adaptive. I strive to take advantage of advanced physics course offerings and to truly get a deep and rich understanding of the physics of Civil Engineering. But more valuable to me, the character of her adaptability is something I strive to shape myself around. I want to be able to have the heart to battle life's worst. I want to not be scared of the future. Without my experience in Mrs. Edstrom's class, I truly believe the character I would possess would be drastically different.