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Dr. Tim Dumore & Team

Scholarship Essay

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How Braces Changed My Life

If you were to say thin metal wires placed in my mouth would change how I think of myself and how other people view me, I would think you were crazy. However, this crazy contraption of metals and plastics called braces ended up making me into a better person mentally and socially. Braces have changed my life from as soon as I got them on until now, almost a year after the glorious transformation ended. In this essay, I'll take you on a journey of how I changed from when I first got them on to when I first got them off to present day and the future, where I am definitely reaping the rewards.

When I first walked into Dr. Dumore's office I was extremely nervous to not only get braces on, but to go through the whole process of my teeth and self-image changing. As a self-conscious person, the idea of my appearance changing was exciting, but frightening at the same time. I knew from my friends that when they first put them on that there is some pain, and when they get adjusted every 2 months or so it hurts as well. More importantly though, my friends mentioned how kind and helpful the staff is from the start of your treatment all the way past your treatment is over. Also, they mentioned how the caring atmosphere also takes the edge off of the feelings of anxiety. Once I began to recall what my friends informed me of, I realized I did not have anything to be afraid of. Of course there would be a change by getting braces, but I had many people including the staff and Dr. Dumore himself to help me through this process.

The amount of passion and joy the staff and Dr. Dumore had also made the process enjoyable as seeing people doing a job they love is always uplifting.

The next two years of orthodontic treatment went well, but I was definitely ready to get my braces off. The change in my teeth was astronomical and was night and day with what my teeth used to look like. After 45 minutes of grinding and removing the metal wires that had been in my mouth for the past two years my braces were off! My teeth were so straight and so white I didn't even believe it was my smile when I looked in the mirror! It was like an instant boost to my self-confidence and self-image, which was one of the reasons why I believe braces are so great. To be able to smile freely and know your smile looks stunning made the two year process of braces totally worth the money and the other sacrifices necessary.

Looking back at it now almost a year later, braces have impacted my life beyond words and I'm so grateful to be able to have had them. They have changed how I think about myself and how other people view my confidence immensely. A year later, my teeth still look amazing and my smile continues to give me confidence about myself and my ability to communicate and work with others. It will also help me in the future when I decide to choose a career. According to a study done by *Invisalign*, those with straight teeth are perceived to be 45% more likely than those with crooked teeth to get a job when competing with someone who has a similar skill set [and] experience. They are also seen as 58% more likely to be successful, as well as 58% [more] likely to be wealthy (shefinds.com, 2012)."

In the end, I'm very grateful and ecstatic that I had the chance to have braces. It not only perfected my smile, but taught me some valuable lessons and led me to great people on the way.

I would not only recommend braces, but I would also recommend Dr. Dumore & his team for anyone's orthodontic needs!