

Vruti Modi

Mr. Chase

English Comp 1

23 September 2016

Moving from India to the United States

When I was fifteen, I had a happy life in my hometown in India. My mother came to my room one night and told me we were moving to Arkansas. I was excited but did not know how I could be myself in another culture and in an entirely different place.

First, my family had to drive seven hours from our home in Gujarat to the huge city Mumbai. There we applied for a visa from an American Embassy. This was when I realized that this move to Arkansas was really going to happen. Then we drove home and started to pack our things for the big trip to America. We had one month to pack everything. We had to sell all our big things that we could not bring with us. We had to say good bye to all our friends and family there. There were several farewell parties that made me both happy and sad. My friends gave me some awesome gifts such as a photo frame, mugs and great memories picture, so I could bring something of them to my new world. It would probably be a very long time before I saw my best friends again, so I was both sad and excited. On the day we left my uncle drove us to the airport in Mumbai.

Eventually, we all got on the huge Delta airline and sat down, and I realized this was the first airplane flight for anyone in my family. I could not imagine that big room full of so many people could ever leave the ground. We buckled our seat belts; and the giant bird started to move, faster and faster, louder and louder and then it tilted and left the ground traveling up, up and up. We were all amazed and very excited to be on such a life changing adventure together.

Our first stop was in Doha on the Persian Gulf. This was the first time we saw Arabic people. We had a two and half hours layover and changed planes there. Then we flew to Chicago on a fourteen-hour flight. We flew over the North Pole and there was no night there. It was summer; we saw ice on the Arctic Ocean. When the plane landed in Chicago we all were very tired, but we had to go through U.S. customs with our fifteen bags of luggage. They asked us many questions and we were scared, but they let us enter the United States. After a few hours, we got a plane and flew to Little Rock, Arkansas. We were very lucky because we had family already living in Little Rock. They met us at the airport. America has many highways and roads which are neat and clean. We like how everything is so green. Here in America I can smell nature, trees, and flowers. Even though everything in America looked and smelled different from India, seeing family at the Airport helped me not be afraid.

Finally, we lived with family for two months in Little Rock until we found our own place to live. Our home is also in Little Rock. We are living in a large apartment complex. It has three bedrooms, two and half baths, a kitchen, a dining area, and living area. Our residence is surrounded with many trees, flowers, and a playground. This time was both wonderful and frightening for me. I missed my friends, my language, and my food. The food I miss was pani puri and the fresh vegetables. I was trying to learn English; but it didn't come easily. I took English as a Second Language class at Pulaski Tech. I had to take the class twice, in order to pass the English requirement to become a full time student at Pulaski Tech. During this time, I was missing my friends back home in Gujarat. It was very unfortunate I that could not talk with my friends. The first month here was confusing and exciting and I missed my old home a lot.

The big move to America has been good for me and my family. The lifestyle that we are able to have in America is very comfortable with many amenities. I know now that one day I

will get to go visit my friends and home country again. I have a good job with Walmart. I am starting to make friends in Arkansas. My fears about this big move are gone. I really feel that I have a real home in Little Rock. My family and myself have a made a big adjustment toward living happily in a new world.