**MY EXPERIENCES IN OVERCOMING CONFLICT**

 ***DEIRATIA ZHILLE S. DE LIMA, 14***

***683 words***

 What does it mean to overcome conflict? Overcoming conflict means to address and sort out a certain problem or issue in a usually professional setting. Although, overcoming conflicts can always apply to working out specific problems one may have in life, or what is called “personal issues”. Such issues may consist of family-related issues, academic and even emotional and mental health struggles, and conflict can also be considered as a problem even if two opposing parties are not necessarily involved in such situations. Many of us have many issues and conflicts that we face all the time, but today, I’d like to share my own experience, how it happened, how it ended and what I learned from said incident.

 About two months ago, there came a very deep-rooted conflict with me and classmate of mine. To give my story more detail, it all started in 7th grade, when I first met my classmate, we ended up growing close as friends as time passed by, till I came to a point where I realized that I was well; romantically attracted to him. It was a simple crush although it was what most would call a “deep puppy love” for at the time, I truly had deep feelings for him and because he was the first ever crush I had. I grew attached to him, always wanting to stay by his side and keep him company, and I became excited all the time when I saw him for at the time, I thought I could be myself when I was with him with no judgment. Till the near end of 3rd to early 4th quarter came, and he confessed to me that he wanted to cut ties with me because he thought we were moving too fast, and I agreed even though it pained me very much emotionally, I respected him and his decision.

After that year ended, him and I never spoke again. Maybe it was the awkwardness, or the possibility of after we parted ways, he sooner or later found someone new, while during those 2 months after we parted I was left heartbroken till I moved on by the time we now reached 8thgrade. Though I never held any of it against him, because after all it was his decision and I respected it. Till around the middle of 3rd grading, I was sent a leaked message from him by a friend of mine of a long and hurtful message from himself calling me all sorts of awful and distasteful things even going as far as calling me a “bitch” by the end of his message. At first, it was heartbreaking of course, seeing such a message from the person you once held so dear to your heart, now suddenly having such an awful and lowly opinion of you even after all the effort you tried to put in for him. Although, I would’ve simply toughed it out and ignored it to avoid any *conflict.* Till my mother herself saw it and asked me all about the issue. Then, afterwards, she informed my advisor who then gave him a good talking-to, and later on arranging a meeting with him and his parents together with our teacher and my mother to assess the issue. His parents gave their end to which I listened properly, and apologizing on behalf of their son, me and my mother understood and accepted, and they also made him apologize to me as well. After the meeting was held, we all went home, assuming the issue was settled. But a certain part of me still hasn’t forgiven him, not just for the things he said about me, but also how he has the audacity to do so after hurting me so much without even knowing or asking how I was at the time. But all in all, I’ve learned that forgiveness is key to happiness and that it’s best to focus on studies and family instead of such things like relationships at our age. So in a way, I have to thank him for making me realize such things.