

## Essay Sample

*Prompt: Why do you deserve a second chance?*

In a way, one can say it's not a second chance for me. It's a second chance I wish my friend had. But life doesn't always work that way. And now, I want a chance: my friend's "second chance."

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In a split of a second there was chaos. I still don't know if I was moving too slow, or the world was moving too fast. Kevin fell two feet away from me—I will never forget his facial expressions; it was a look of calmness and sadness yet it was so powerful that it reverberated inside my heart and produced numbness throughout my body. I stood there frozen. The screams of his mother's pain were unmistakable.

My brain finally caught up with the reality in front of me. My friend had been shot. His mother cried next to him as the sirens of the ambulance sounded in the background.

I stepped away, turned around, and made my way to my home. As soon as I shut the door behind me, I found my bed and was unable to process a single thought. My heart felt pain, my body was cold, and my mind was tired.

On the next day there was a school meeting where I learned my friend was pronounced dead on the ambulance, and to this day, the people who shot him have not been found.

Kevin is one of the community's unsolved crimes but he did not lose his life in vain because who he was has become much of who I am today. I realized that trying to be "cool" is not what necessarily propels someone to reach goals and claim success. Since this incident, I have dedicated my school life to my friend as it was a life-changing moment for me that I still remember vividly. It takes time to realize what you really have in front of you, whether it's a friend or a chance to be successful. I know that a chance to be successful and to focus on my education cannot be taken for granted, because like my friend, he was not given that opportunity.

He did not get a chance to show the world what he could do. But he did change how I view my life and deepened my understanding of what it means to live with purpose. And now, it is up to me to do it for him, to take his second chance. Not just for me but for my community that is struggling.

As a result, I have worked hard to graduate fifth in my class and have achieved principal's honor roll multiple times. I have become a positive influence in my community and my family. Though I cannot say that I have lived every day as if it were my last, like my friend Kevin who was studious and disciplined to grow up to be someone, I can say that I understand that anything can happen in any given moment.

I have to move on, push on, and roll on to whatever challenge life throws my way. I have come to the conclusion that I am a fighter. I want to be recognized within my career and feel like I am full of knowledge. I want to give back to my community so I can be an agent of positive change. But I can only begin to reach success with a college diploma in my hand.

A college education will empower me to live Kevin's second chance.