



Elizabeth Brown

Elizabeth Brown is a graduating senior from Bartlett High School. Elizabeth writes, "I believe eliminating racism and empowering women is essential to a successful and just society."

When Elizabeth was three years old, her parents divorced. In 8th grade, after years of court battles, she was allowed to live with her mom full time.

Elizabeth has taken honors and A.P. classes in high school, and is also involved in the dance program. She likes to volunteer and has earned over 160 hours of community service hours through cheer competitions, her church, and Anchorage Youth Court, among other activities. After graduation, Elizabeth hopes to attend university and eventually hopes to teach dance.

Elizabeth missed her first week of school this fall recovering from a miscarriage that she describes as, "extremely traumatic, emotionally devastating, and life threatening." In June 2009, Elizabeth discovered she was pregnant. She kept her pregnancy a secret from her family, and did not receive the proper medical care needed during her pregnancy.

Although she kept it a secret, she had begun to make life changing decisions in the best interests of her baby; hoping to be the best mother she possibly could be. On August 18, 2009, Elizabeth began the miscarriage that took ½ a week to complete, and was emotionally and physically painful, and life-threatening. She writes, "living with the loss of my daughter is still something I struggle with and will struggle with for the rest of my life. I believe it is extremely important for people to make sure young girls understand how serious and horrible a miscarriage is...Young women aren't given a clear image of how getting pregnant and NOT having the baby can wreck your entire world...It is so important that young girls also understand how crucial medical help is during a pregnancy."

Elizabeth writes, "I don't look at my best friend and see a black female; I see someone I can trust and someone I have a lot of fun and things in common with. I don't look at my daughter's dad and see a black and white mixed male; I see someone I found companionship with and went through hard times with while learning what love is. I especially don't think of my daughter and see a little girl who would have been black and white; I see a little girl who I will love until the day I die and a little girl who taught me more about myself in three months than I learned in my entire 18 years of life. Race doesn't make a person, yet we've allowed it to divide us into groups. Not only would fighting racism empower women, but it would empower our men and create a stronger society." ...