**My Community**

[Name of Writer]

[Name of Institution]

Our community defines the people we routinely interact with and hence determines the personalities and experiences influencing our lives. The path our decisions take and the direction our life therefore carves is all dependent on the people with immediate access to us. My personality and character traits also represent the community I am constantly impacted by. Unlike people with a big support system, the people who make up my community are just my mother, my grandmother and my sister.

One of the most significant ways my community has shaped me stems from the fact that we are all women who have had to bravely fend for ourselves without the help of a man. My parent’s divorce was made bitter by the measly amount in child support that my father pays as well as by the fact that my mother had little experience of working full time to support a family. Other than the all-important lesson of female self-sufficiency, living in harsh financial conditions has also grounded me and given me humility, character and gratitude. A maturity uncommon in people my age is thanks to the financial hardships that my community has faced with relentless courage and stubborn feminism.

My mother does not speak much English as it is her second language which she primarily uses for simple, uncomplicated communication. My grandmother does not speak any English at all. The younger sister, on the other hand, does not speak Chinese very well. This rather hilarious combination of languages in our house has ultimately resulted in myself becoming the interpreter this family needs. Since I have lived in China for most of my childhood, I know the language as well as the cultural context behind it very well. My time in America has successfully done the same for English. I therefore not only translate but also routinely correct misunderstandings due to the language barrier.

The community I represent is one with three strong female influences who have never depended on a man to save them. This legacy as well as the language interpretation skills perfectly illustrate my community and everything they have taught me.