



"Focus on the journey, not the destination. Joy is found not in finishing an activity but in doing it."
Greg Anderson

Hermiston FFA Chapter
600 S. 1st Street
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Dear Oregon FFA,

"Why isn't it moving?" My heart sank as I slowly peered into the two liter bottle. *He's dead* I thought to myself, *it's time for some serious problem solving*. Little Laney, who I had just met ten minutes earlier, had a quizzical expression on her face as she asked me that question. The rest of the 1st grade class was buzzing with excitement as they finally got to put the worms into their composting bins. I took the children aside to tell them a story. "The worms work so hard all day long to compost all of the food leftovers, grass and dirt that is in the ground, and he's very tired, so he is taking a little nap." Meanwhile, my classmate and good friend was replacing the nonmoving annelid, with a plump pink one.

This embodies what FFA has been for me; a whirlwind of fun times and of course, some problem solving. The most important lesson I have learned is that sometimes a failure is more enlightening than success, and that it is truly the journey that makes the difference.

Whether it be a contest or merely a practice, you never know what you are capable of until you try. Such as being the chair on our freshman Parliamentary Procedure team, we never made it past the district contest, but that event made me work extra hard in the following years, and now my every success is even sweeter. This is what the FFA does best; pushing us beyond what we think possible, and through a journey of failure and success, growing us into dynamic individuals ready to take on any challenge.

It is with great honor and sincerity that I announce my candidacy for the 2013- 2014 Oregon FFA State Officer Team. I am fully ready to devote the next year to serving all of the great FFA members who are a part of our organization. Good luck in all of your endeavors and always remember, it's not the end result that matters most, but the journey that got you there. I look forward to meeting you all at the 84th annual Oregon FFA State Convention!

Sincerely,

Abigail Gray
Blue Mountain District President