

## ENGL1102

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\*\*Picture of me and my family at one of our reunions. I am the one in the middle of the front row (between my grandparents on the rocking chairs) with the dark hair. I absolutely love my family.

I, Katie AliFarhani, was born in Columbus, Georgia to an Iranian father and an American mother on May 23, 1991 at 10:43 pm. Being the lucky one, I was the baby of the batch of five and also the only girl. Yes, that's right, I have four older brothers. They are most likely responsible for my aggressiveness and ability to protect myself and my beliefs.

Though my picture might seem like a typical American family, there is a completely different side that is not shown. My dad (seen in the far left corner) has family that currently lives in Iran. Therefore, I might seem like a typical “white” female on the

outside, but I am actually half Iranian and a mix of many different backgrounds. I can be over-analytical, complicated, yet be very outgoing and simple; the latter two are what I consider the better traits, of course.

I'm proud of my heritage and my religion. Being a Muslim in Georgia has definitely made me a stronger person. I have had to fight against stereotypical remarks, especially after September 11th. But this negativity has also resulted in positivity. I have opened the eyes of many people who didn't realize the truth about the Middle East and Islam. I have also been affiliated with many organizations that promote spreading the acceptance of diversity, and I even received a scholarship for doing so. I think my background has a lot to do with why I want to help those in need. I aspire to teach others how to accept diversity and live in harmony with others who are different from themselves. I think that people should work towards having better communication and a greater understanding of others. I believe if two opposing parties would simply sit down and respectfully discuss their differences, they would soon realize that the conflicts between them can be simplified into a more understandable matter.