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Jaime Mayorga



## The Key to My Dad's Success

My dad, Vicente (Vince) Mayorga, was born on April 5, 1964, in Queretaro, Mexico. Vince was the second of eight brothers and sisters. His parents were poor country farmers in the Sierra Madre Mountains. When he turned fourteen, Vince saw that his parents were struggling to put even one meal on the table per day. Finally one day, my dad decided he was tired of seeing his family suffer. He decided to have a talk with his uncle. His uncle



told him that he would take him to the United States only if my dad was willing to work and provide for himself. My father immediately

took the offer. He was young but had a mind and

determination to save his family. When he arrived in the U.S., which was no easy task, he was left by his uncle in Southwestern Oklahoma, while his uncle left for Georgia. Now on his own, my young dad had to look for work. Finally, he found a farmer who believed that a man's work was more important than the nationality or social status. Now that my dad was starting to see what it really meant to be in the land of great opportunities, he decided to become a citizen of the United States. On his way to achieve his



goal, my dad had to battle working, learning English, and learning the history and political aspects of the country he wanted to be a part of.

On the road to his citizenship, my dad had to first struggle with work. The farmer whom he worked for was a middle-aged man. My dad would have to rise every morning at five-thirty to tend to the livestock. The farmer had numerous pigs, cattle, and chickens. One day the farmer needed to leave for a personal matter, but he still needed his land to be tilled. He then called my dad and just put him in the tractor without much instruction except "till the soil." My dad had trouble, but within an hour he had learned how to drive a tractor.



The next obstacle my dad faced was learning English. In Mexico, the schools taught English only in the tenth grade. My dad was forced to drop out of school in elementary to help his dad make ends meet. My dad knew that if he was to achieve his citizenship, he would need to take English classes. He then decided to go to the Oklahoma City for English classes. He found a person that taught English and also spoke Spanish, but the only problem was the classes were Monday thru Friday, eight to eleven in the evening. This discouraged my dad, but he took the classes anyway. He would work by day, and by night he would be studying English in the city.



about two weeks my dad, with the help of the English teacher, had learned everything possible to pass the naturalization test. Now that he was ready, he signed up and went through the process of becoming a citizen, and on his first attempt, he passed the test and became a citizen of the U.S. He reached his greatest goal, which to this very day he refers to as, "The Key to My Success."

Even as a child my dad struggled. His parents were very poor, and he had to quit school to help his father. When he came to this country, he immediately knew he never wanted to raise a family in Mexico. He saw the opportunities. He thought ahead in his future, a thing young people these days really need to learn how to do, and saw what his future family would be. His citizenship was the most important event in my dad's life. With this he went from a boy who worked for a farmer to owner of a small oilfield business. This truly was, "The Key to My Dad's Success."

