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I have been a teacher since the age of six. I was an expert at using my pretend dry erase board and was even better at drawing red check marks and X's on scrap papers. But my greatest joy came from the art of explaining. Ever since my little brother was able to speak, stand up, and be a toddler, I have always been there to teach him the next step. "One, two, three," I would count using my fingers and look up at him encouragingly. He would then follow my lead until he reached ten and clapped in excitement. One day, my mom came home with a pad of lined paper for beginner writers. I quickly grabbed the pad and sat my brother down in the kitchen table.

We practiced the alphabet for weeks on end, despite his constant protests and cries, until he had fully mastered the entire alphabet and was able to write his first name. My mother looked at a page with my brother's name written in my handwriting on top of the page, and my brother's repetition followed: "R-A-G-A-V," she spelled, "Looks like the teacher forgot an H," she said as she handed me back the notebook. I looked down at the countless pages filled with the words "RAGAV," each page beginning with my own handwriting and then filled with my brother's. My brother looked at me with wide eyes. "I made a mistake," I said with confidence and reassurance, "Let's start over."

So, we began the cycle again of me writing the word "RAGHAV" on the first line and my brother filling the remaining lines with duplicates, until my brother happily waved around his paper with his correctly spelled name on it. Since then, I have taught my brother how to read, perform addition and subtraction, how the water cycle works, the formation of volcanoes, and why the sky is blue during the day. This exciting practice of teaching my brother led me to becoming a self-employed tutor, and for the same reason, co-founder and president of the science club at my high school - all for the satisfaction of seeing the end result as one big picture, the lit up faces from understanding how amazing our universe truly is, the excitement from coming up with an engineering design plan, the happiness of achieving that high exam score, the wave of the paper with the correctly written name on it.

In a world where dependency on numbers to determine your value has become commonplace, I have come to believe that each individual is brilliant and is capable of everything and anything. Just as it is possible to teach anything, it is possible to learn anything. Thus the art of teaching is not entirely an art form. It is about patience, but most importantly, having the courage to believe.

Likewise [to my experiences with being not only Raghav's sister but also his mentor], I strongly feel deep in my heart that it is my moral duty/obligation to educate the youth and public with all that I know and help inspire/drive them to go forth and accomplish many great things. (continue to next page →)

Therefore, I would like to teach the world about the art of teaching and how we can equip ourselves with Education (aka – the most powerful weapon anyone can have these days).

With this method working at hand, I would like to break the myths/misconceptions around the various environmental issues which exist and feed each and every person's beautiful mind with the facts and all that they need to know as a good citizen of this planet on how they can contribute to fighting the good fight. The best forms of presenting myself and accomplishing this goal I feel would be to implement environmental literacy programs and reform our current education system (inclusive of all academic institutions – elementary through high school, college & university, and beyond!) I would like to have state and federal laws passed making these environmental programs/courses and opportunities mandatory throughout all 50 states, possibly by the year 2025! ☺