

Sarah-

I am from Dorman High. After you came this week, it really opened my eyes to how something so tragic could happen to anybody. Lately, I have become friends with people who drink. Not exactly partying, just old redneck drinking. And recently, driving too. Now, I can honestly say that I haven't ever done that, but I'm starting to feel less and less worried about getting in the car with them. They seem to be decent people but they take everything to the extreme. I have started to notice that they tend to use a lot of people and I wonder if they use me. I have driven while they were drunk before because I took the keys away because I didn't feel comfortable about the situation. Ha, usually you see this stuff on movies or television and like that would ever be me.. but I think I am living one of those movies. I have a lot going for me. I'm good in school, never been written up, never been suspended or anything. I don't plan on starting. I was actually sitting next to my friends during your speech. Needless to say it was quite awkward. I had my picture taken with you after your speech because I no longer want to live that life. I keep that picture because I want to live up to the life you teach. I know that you probably get a ton of these messages about how you inspire people. But I just wanted to tell you how much you inspired me. My mom is actually a Trauma ICU nurse and she is always telling me not to end up there because she wouldnt know what to do without me. The day of your speech I went home and 'googled' your story. I showed her what had happened and all of your injuries. She was taken by how you managed to take your tragedy and turn it into a motivational speech on drinking/driving. now that you have probably worn your eyes out reading this message i will end it by saying THANK YOU! Thank you for opening my eyes to what the world is really like. Nobody is invincible. As much as we would like to think we are. Sadly, I now realize we aren't. I just don't know what to do about my friends becuae at 17 years old. It's not exactly the easiest thing in the world to make new friends. Any advice would be great. I know how busy your schedule is, but if you get some time to let me know what I could do that would be appreciated!

Thank you!!

-taylor