

*"No daughter of mine is going to wrestle in a ring with boys while other girls are doing ballet and feminine activities." This was my father's response when I asked him to sign my permission slip to join the wrestling club.*

*I walked back into my bedroom, took out my laptop, and innocently googled, "can girls be wrestlers." The internet provided me with so many examples of successful female wrestlers. I was especially impressed with the Bella Twins; Nikky and Brie. These were some of the most feminine women I had seen, with dancing backgrounds but also incredibly successful wrestling careers in the WWE. I dove into research and found myself watching the "Nikky and Brie" reality show where I saw them be ladies, mothers, entrepreneurs, and still fight men and women in the WWE ring.*

*The next day, I printed as much content as I could about the Bella twins and other female wrestlers then slipped them under my father's bedroom door before going to school. I also texted him that I had forged his signature and would join the club unless he gave me a valid reason beyond what I had debunked about why I should not join the club.*

*To my surprise, my dad never brought up the topic again. You can change people's minds no matter how hard-headed they are. Just the other day, my dad attended my wrestling match and cheered as I won the belt. This would not be my reality if I had not challenged his beliefs.*