

*For several years, my teachers referred to me as an average student. I knew I was not stupid but I was also not smart. I got Cs on my tests and that was my highest grade. This made me steer clear of activities like debate, sports, and competitions because I knew that I would never stand out.*

*"Stand up, you got the highest grade in the class." I will never forget these words from my science teacher in the fifth grade. I completed a project that I initially did not want to do because of self-doubt. I recall my teacher telling me "I don't think there is anyone more suited for this project than you." Initially, I did not believe these words. But I completed the project just so I did not disappoint her. She checked up on me severally, which made me want to work harder. So, when I got the best grade in class, an "A+," I could not believe it. She called me aside and gave me a lot of material and asked me to join the interclass competition. No teacher had ever believed in me that much. I recall her talking to my dad and saying "your daughter is my brightest student."*

*From that day, I never got less than a B+ in science. And my newly found confidence came in handy in my overall studies. I finished the seventh grade with a mean grade of A, which I never thought was possible. Now I have a chance of joining a prestigious college and all this is thanks to my science teacher believing in me. I face challenges with confidence because I know I am more than average.*