

Transcript:

Ava – High school was actually very scary for me when I started out, I was terrified, especially of teachers and everything and when I started, I was in all applied classes because I was told to go into applied classes because I had a learning disability. That's what all my middle school teachers said. They were like, 'We prefer you in applied classes because of your learning disability' and they kind of used that as an excuse to put me in applied classes, I feel. But, you know, as high school went on, and as I used resource, like as I use GLE and resource like as a resource, I opened up a little bit more and it took a little near the end of ninth grade for me to start being able to approach other teachers and, you know, talk about my problems and everything, but at first it was, I was quiet, I didn't like anything at all, whatsoever. I was very silent.

Lawrence – And how much of that is that fear of I don't want to be different from the rest of the people around me in this classroom? I don't want to tell people I need more help. I don't want to tell people that I need extra time. Is that part of the fear?

Ava – Ya, definitely, because I just, it's like, you're sitting in this classroom and everyone's around you and they're all, you know, doing their work and they don't have extra time for this, and they don't have that, and you want extra time and you wonder, well, what makes me different? Why am I different? And then, you know, they try and explain it, and they say, maybe because it takes you longer to understand what you're reading and you might need help understanding it sometimes, but like, as much as I'll try to understand it myself, you know, it's just...I don't know how to explain it. It's just like it's different and I don't like being different.