Example Essay 1: High School English Essay

**Question:** Hardship and suffering lead to new understandings about one’s self and others. Show that this statement is true or not true for a literary work that you studied in this course. (Text: Alive)

Hardship and suffering lead to new understandings about one’s self and others. When forced in new surroundings, one is forced to cope with everything around them. During the novel *Alive: The Andes Survivors*, these people were forced to deal with the situation around them and had no choice but to include everyone to make a living a little better. Three situations in the novel where the survivors were forced to understand themselves are, Canessa with himself, Canessa and Nando and the survivors as a whole.

**Canessa vs. himself.** This is where he started to doubt himself as a doctor. He thought that he was just a beginner and he did not know enough to be helping the others as a medical expert. This hardship helps him to better understand himself because he gets the support that he needs from the survivors that they trust in him. He learns that if he works at it he will get better. Also where he tells the others about eating the flesh of the dead bodies, he provides them with information on which part of the bodie is more healthy and vitamin enriched. This clearly shows that the Hardship and Suffering helped him understand and better himself.

**The second conflict is Canessa and Nando.** This conflict is where them as expeditionaries bonded to gather to get rescue. As they were working to gather they got closer to gather and shared a bond that only them and possible the survivors could explain. They have come to understand each other better in terms of their strengths and weaknesses, and their inner self. Also when they chose to go find chile together, this shows that the suffering and hardship has push them to be stronger and thats how they understand each other so well and share a special bond.

**Finally, The survivors together had better understanding about themselves and each other.** Through Suffering and Hardship they have come to see that the crash has produced good things even though all the deaths and loniness they feel. The understand each others pain, some more than others. This experience has brought them to closer and striving to see each other get rescued. They now understand each others goals and what they want to accomplish after this tragedy. Through hardships and suffering The Andes Survivors has learned much about themselves. Canessa understand himself better, he also had better understanding about Nando. Also the survivors as a whole understood each other. This whole tragedy has brought the team together, closer than they imagined.

**Source:** Adapted from the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board English 4C Student Handbook