

Right now, swimming is ~~such~~ a big part of my life. Everyday I practice. Some weekends, my time is devoted to swimming at most. I think about the Olympics and how I can become a great swimmer. But that takes a lot of hard work and dedication. I have no problem with that. I know hard work pays off. Even if I don't go to the Olympics all of the hard work will not be in ~~no~~ (vain) because through swimming, I have learned ~~later~~ how to make sacrifices and believe in myself. I've learned how to set goals and to work hard to achieve them. I've learned how to fall and how to get back up. So even if I don't go to the Olympics, all of this will be for something. I know it has to be for something. I know it has to be because all that I am is going to lead up to whatever I become later. It's like each challenge each sacrifice, each time I fall and ~~rise~~ are all building blocks of who I will become in the future. So Olympics or not, I will continue to take each challenge the world hurls at me.

Ellen's writing after reading "My Grandmother's Hair."