

## Breaking the Silence by Skilar Alvarez

Starting this documentary I had no idea where I wanted it to go. I knew that I wanted it to be about an aspect of my life, but I wasn't sure which one. The topic I have now was not the topic I had started with and I had no idea that's where I would end up. This documentary on how I, as a young girl, got taken advantage of was a hard piece to film. It had destroyed me yet made me a stronger person, and with telling my story I hope to give others who have gone or are going through the same situation as I did the courage to fight past it. To begin this documentary, I started with getting my father's interview out of the way. He lives out of town and rarely makes the trip to where I live, so I knew that I had to get his interview out of the way as soon as possible or a huge piece of my story would be missing. I began this project working alone, but soon realized that I was going to need someone who wasn't emotionally attached to the story to partner me in creating this. After my father's interview, I interviewed two of my brothers but later realized that their interviews would not flow with the rest of my documentary. My interview was next, which was the hardest part of the process for me. My partner had made up questions as we went along, so I was able to bring up emotions that were stowed away ever since the incident. I knew to get the most real and raw emotion for my documentary, my interview could not be scripted. For my final interview I got to interview my mother, which was also pretty hard for me because we don't have the best relationship. But, during her interview I was able to get emotions out of her that I really didn't even know were even there. Through my hard time she was my rock, so I never got to see all of the emotions she was feeling until this interview. The

Thea Foundation Young Filmmaker Scholarship  
Skilar Alvarez  
Lakeside High School

final bit of what I needed to be able to start editing my documentary was the b-roll. I waited for b-roll last so I would know exactly what I needed and what would make the biggest impact. Editing is where I really needed my partner's input and help. It was hard for me to make cuts and decide what should stay and what should go. I enjoy the editing process and was very involved in it, but I would have to give the thanks to my partner for knowing what to keep and where to put what we kept. This documentary is not the first piece that I have done this year, but it was definitely the most time consuming and difficult piece. I would be entirely grateful to accept this scholarship award and be able to go to college knowing that I have been granted this award in honor of the Thea Foundation. What this scholarship would grant me is the honor to be the first in my family, on both sides, to attend college and strive for dreams to be as successful as this world will let me.