

Jamie Nabozny

<http://www.JamieNabozny.com>

Quotes from Students

Hey Jamie, thanks for coming to speak at my school! My cousin is gay and is very sensitive about it. Even though he didn't say anything about you I know it really hit home! And with everyone in my class that you talked to, you really helped understand against the whole race thing in some of my classmates! Again thank you!

Sam – High School Student

My name is Kate and you spoke at my High School and I just wanted to tell you that I think your presentation a few weeks ago really helped a lot. I noticed far fewer people using derogatory terms for gay people or using "gay" in a negative connotation. I also witnessed a girl standing up against someone who was bullying another girl about being lesbian. It's a big improvement. Thank you for sharing your story with us. I, along with the entire school, really appreciate your willingness to share openly.

Kate – High School Student

Thank you so much for speaking to my classmates last Monday. You reached the hearts and souls (sorry if that sounds cliché) of even the most conservative people in attendance. As a straight 16-year-old male, I found that it would be typical for me to simply accept bullying as human nature and inevitable. Individuals like you inspire me to be a part of the movement toward equal treatment of every human being, no matter what features or traits he/she embodies.

Kevin – High School Student

Jamie, thank you so much for coming to our school. You are such an inspiration to many people, and you probably changed most of the people in our school. You're such a brave person for sharing your childhood. You definitely changed my life. Keep doing what your doing.

Joe – High School Student

Jamie, Thank you so much for coming to my school and sharing your life story with us. It really inspired a lot of us to think before we speak and to accept others for who they are. I hope you can come back again one year to inspire even more people than you already have. Keep doing what you do and hopefully one day we can live in a world where everyone is happy with each other, people aren't getting bullied the way they do now and people can be comfortable in their own skin. Once again, thank you.

Sean – High School Student

Jamie, Thank you for presenting at my school the other day you are truly an inspiration to thousands. Continue doing what you do and maybe this world will be a better place one day where you don't see teen suicides on the news and where a kid can go to school knowing he or she won't have to stress worrying if someone will torment them and maybe then many people will find happiness in their lives.
Dan-High School Student

Evan – High School Student

I just wanted to thank you for coming to my school. I can't believe how many people you actually got to. It's unbelievable that you touched so many people in our school, some that you wouldn't even think of, with your story. It's truly inspiring that you're spreading your knowledge through your sad experience to others. You've really made a difference and we're all so grateful that you could help us change and see something we haven't seen before. You've opened up our eyes and made us think before we speak. It's people like you that make a difference in this world and we're all so glad you've kept staying strong. Please continue what you do and we'll all try to

create a community where everyone feels welcome & safe. Everybody should be accepted for who they are and nobody should feel uncomfortable in their own skin. We'll all try to work towards that goal. Once again, thank you so much Mr. Nabozny.

Nicole – High School Student

Jamie, what you did at my school changed the school a lot most speakers don't really change kids in are school. But I can see that you have changed almost everyone at school. Thanks man you really helped are school keep doing what your doing. Thanks!

Clement – High School Student

Thank you so much for sharing your story at my school today. I was shown a new side of our student body this past week that is not only tolerant, but also accepting. Your presentation- plus the love, openness and support that has reached close friends of mine- will continue to inspire me my whole life. Thank you for not giving up when times were much more than tough, for your strength provides hope for millions.

Katie – High School Student

Thank you so much for coming to my school today. I have never seen a speaker receive the type of response that you have from my peers. Your story touched all kinds of different people at my school and I believe that your presentation will truly make Fox Lane a better place. Personally, your story gave me the courage to speak my truth, something I never thought I'd be able to do in high school. For that, you have changed my life. The support I have received has been amazing and many of my fears have been put to rest. This time last year was one of the darkest periods of my life, and I am ecstatic to have come such a long way. Today my school, my future, and the world became a lot less scary, thanks to you. You have left a lasting impact on Fox Lane and I will be forever grateful that I had the opportunity to meet you.

Jacqueline – High School Student

Jamie, thank you so much for talking to us at my Middle School. After watching your video, I feel really bad because I would always say gay, fag, that's so gay and anything else connected to that. Now I will watch what I say, because you took time out of your busy schedule to teach me and my friends about the harms of bullying.

Jake – High School Student

Thanks for speaking at our school Jamie it really was great. I really respect you for what you did, and now after your movie and everything you said ill think twice before saying something is "Gay" or "Retarded". Again THANK YOU!

Andrew – High School Student

Really hope you come back to my school again! You were really inspirational and totally changed my view on the way people use the word gay and how serious bullying can get. :) Thank You!

Seth – High School Student

Hey Jamie, thank you so much for speaking at my school today. It was great to hear your story, and I'm sure it will improve social conditions around school. There's no doubt in my mind that your presentation made an impact in the minds of victims, bullies, and even bystanders. I now know that there will be a tremendous decrease in all three of these roles, and an increase in students taking action. You are such an inspiration, and thanks a ton! Hopefully other schools will also get the opportunity to experience and learn from your powerful story.

Sam – High School Student

Thank you very much for coming and speaking to us here at my school. I can assure you that it was very much needed and very much appreciated. You gave our school the wake up call it needed and I would like to personally extend my hand, and thank you for the bottom of my heart. I feel that bullying is a serious subject and it is not just a matter of "boys will be boys" or "kids will be kids", I think that it is much deeper than just that. You have inspired me and many of my peers

to stand up to injustice in a positive manner. It is not always easy mustering up the courage to do so, but I believe that after hearing your speech, it will become much easier to stick up for others and for bullying to diminish throughout our middle school. Thank you again(:

Taina – High School Student

Mr. Nabozny-last week at school we watched the documentary about you and I just want to let what you went through was insane and you didn't deserve it and I'm willing to help fight bullying to tell you the truth your video changed me I don't pick on kids anymore and I would like to say your my hero thank you very much you know

Madison

Hey Jamie, first of all I just want to say thank you. Your autobiography was incredible, & heartbreaking. All the horrible things you had to go through to get to where you are..goodness. I want to tell you what has happened to me over a course of the school year.

I am Madi Williams.

I am only 14 & I am harassed everyday at my Middle School.

It first started when I dyed my hair black with some white streaks in my bangs. Some of the popular jock boys started to call me "Skunk". So then I bleached my hair to.."fit in" & stop the harassment. Then they called me "Giraffe". So then I dyed my hair brown, again, to get away from...the names. Then they called me "Grizzly". I let it go..I didn't want it to bother me..I wanted to be strong.

But then, in math class. I share it with two of the meanest jocks. They decided to change my name..to "Walrus". I am very self-conscious about my weight. I ran out of the classroom, crying. I went straight to the counselors office where I watched him nod his head every so often & write names on a sticky note. I stayed there for 2 more hours..unable to walk through the hallways & face the questions of "Where were you? Why are you crying?" etc...So my counselor sent emails to the parents & the principles. I was called to their offices down the hall to talk with them & they said "We'll get to the bottom of this."

Fortunately, they DID stop.

So, today. After your speech at the my high school (you probably don't remember but I was one who asked "What's your advice to people being bullied?") One of the jocks who was bullying me came up to my locker. This is how it went..

Joe: Madi?

Me: Yes, Joe?

Joe: Do you think I'm a bully?

after a long silence of my thinking about my answer

Me: No, Joe.

Joe: Good, because I don't want to be one anymore.

Jamie, thank you. You've changed my future.

I did cut myself because of all the bullying.

But that's all behind me.

So, I must say thank you. I owe you, a lot.

My Sincerest Thank You

Madison

Alex – High School Student

I just want to thank you for coming to my school today! you really opened my eyes up! I never said so many apologies in my life today. I never new my victims could feel like that. But I made a Early New Year's Revolution and its to treat Each other equally and we are all Different in many good ways! Thank you so much!

Alex- Admitted High School Bully.

Amanda – High School Teacher

I have heard speakers say, "If I make a difference in just one person..." Well you certainly did today here at ????? High School- thanks! I am a teacher who listened to my presentation. As I

unlocked the door to my classroom, one of my "macho" students said, "Wow, I feel terrible! I'm not going to judge people any more". He said that he couldn't imagine if what he would do if one of his younger brothers were treated like you were treated. This is coming from a young man who has said some "borderline" comments about gay people in my classroom. I say "borderline" b/c all of my students know that if I hear any kind of homophobic, racial, sexist, etc. comment the guilty party will be sent immediately to the office.

I am 49 now, but I remember being a bystander when kids got bullied in school. I apologized to one of these kids (via facebook) and told her that I was sorry for not doing anything to help her. I just wanted to fit in with the "cool kids" who REALLY weren't very cool at all! Anyway, thanks for all that you do!!! God bless...

Thomas – High School Student

Hey there, Mr. Nabozny! After watching that video and seeing you deliver such a powerful speech in front of an entire school, I was like "Damn, I wish he could actually be here." Imagine my surprise when you came walking out and was introduced! I don't know if you recall meeting me after your talk, but I was the gentleman that asked what your plans were after you ran away the first time. I'd first like to thank you for shedding some light onto such a pressing matter that everyone is involved in, but nobody notices. I would also like to come out to you as a gay male. Which is groundbreaking because I've never put this statement into actual words, on the outside of my mind for someone else to view and for me to realize as a person. I am gay. Wow, it feels good, but anyway; a question of mine is when do you know when it's right to come out? You obviously were very comfortable with your sexuality--before the abuse of course--but what made the moment right? My mom is very open-minded and I'm sure she already sees it coming, and I know most of my friends will see me no different, but school isn't over just yet, which is a very prominent problem. I just want to be happy, basically. When will I know the right time to make such a step toward that happiness?

Again, I cannot thank you enough for your time and energy put toward spreading this message.

Jake – High School Student

Hey Jamie, I just want to thank you for coming to speak at my school today. I'm a senior, and over the years I've gotten bullied for my diabetes and red hair. Your message really stood out to me, and your film and presentation were fantastic. I admit to saying things like "that's so gay" in the past week, and I've never really thought about how offensive it was. My eyes were really opened today, which is why I'm not going to use that phrase anymore, and let others know it's offensive and they shouldn't say it if I hear them say it. So I just wanted to say thank you so much for coming to my school today, your message stood out to me in so many ways and changed my life.

Robert – High School Student

Hey, I was the student who asked about your facebook today. I just wanted to say how inspired I was about your story today, and how it really makes me (and probably everyone) reconsider their past actions, and reflect on them. Just before I typed this out I sent a message to a few students I had previously bullied in middle school, after hearing what you had to say, I felt so terrible about what I've done... I just wanted to thank you for all you have done, and how you have effected the world for the better

Sarah – High School Student

Hey Jamie, i would like to thank you for coming out to our school and honestly waking me up a little. I use the term, "this is gay" a lot. I never realized that this actually could make somebody that is gay feel bad. Today i heard somebody say it and i actually corrected them. Overall i think it was the best and most effective assembly our school has ever had and there needs to be more people like you. I also realized just because somebody is gay it doesn't make them weird or different. You seem like a cool normal guy and i would like to thank you for making me realize all of this. Thanks again

Theresa – High School Student

Thank you so much for taking the time to come to our school. It was GREATLY appreciated by everyone. You are truly an amazing person and I was so inspired and motivated to make a difference. You brought tears to the eyes of many that sat in the audience and listened to your speech. Its just so incredible that there are people like you in this world, and your creating positive change and starting chain reactions. I cant even express how you affected our school. I seen the toughest bullies cry & even apologize to their victims. It felt like the school was a much more positive atmosphere and there was more understanding and consideration throughout the students. Please keep doing what your doing. Your changing lives.

Jared – Middle School Student

Hi you came and spoke at my school and I wanted to share my story .when I was in middle school I was a bully and I treated some kids really bad. I was just hang with the wrong crowd and I just wanted to fit in but I have bipolar and ADHD and in the middle of 7 grade I got really depressed due to many death. My great gramma passed , uncle shot his self , my 3 best friends had a parent pass . 1 due to cancer , 1 to suicide , and 1 to motor cycle accident and I could not handle the stress and I tried to hang my self and my parents sent me to a hospital twice witch I don't tell a lot of people . At the time I thought my parents did this to rid of my because I did not get along with any one in the house due to untreated bipolar. But when I got there and could only talk to my parents once a day and see them once a week as a 12 year old boy that was hard also I spent my birth day in there. But when I got out I was on a medicine that made me eat a lot and I got fat and started getting bullied. So Then I realized how mean I was and how it feels to be in there shoes. in 8 grade I was sent to a alternative school . One day my sister who as autism was getting picked on on the bus by a kid who was whipping there dirty underwear from gym in her face and although I was scared I stood up and confronted the kid and finally got him to stop. But the following year I went back to public school for high school witch was we're it really started

Mark – High School Student

Dear Jamie, I don't need you to respond to this. But I just wanted to tell you, thank you. After hearing what you went through as a child, and still to this day, was amazing. You are a great role model and hero. Once I heard your story I got the chills. Probably because I felt bad, and because I kind of am a bully. I am stopping. I will change. I was abused as a child, physically and emotionally. I guess you could say I wanted others to feel like I did. I didn't physically hurt any one. But words do hurt more. And I would just like to say thank you. You truly opened my eyes. Before today I didn't care what I said and I was mean to kids. I am changing that. I have reached out to people I hurt and said sorry. I know forgiveness doesn't change the past, it just opens up possibilities for the future. And that is what I am looking for. I can't go back in time and change what I said to people. but I will stop for the future. Once again I would like to say thank you for coming to speak in my school. You my friend are truly a life saver.

Jennifer – High School Student

Hello, you came to my high school today. I just wanted to thank you so much! You really showed me and opened my eyes. I am going to talk to our principle on ways that I can do to make a change. All I want to do now is make a change! I just do not know how. Also today after school I went to work while working a guy came in and ordered a sub. I do work at a sub shop so usually you would order a sub. My manger made his sub and handed it to the man. When the guy left my manger goes "wow he was a fag". I took your advice I spoke up and said, "please don't use that word I have a cousin who is gay and that really offends me". He looked at me and actually apologized. I just wanted to say thank you so much for showing me I have the power, just by speaking up to make a difference. It is amazing what you are doing and have accomplished. I just wanted to share the story that happened not even two hours after your presentation today. Thank you!

Frankie – High School Student

My name is Frankie. I just want to start off by saying that i am straight, and I'm not exactly pro-gay, but I don't hate, and I still love you guys like everyone else...but anyways, You spoke at my

school today. I just wanted to say thank you. I've had problems in my life too. I was that bully that said and did things to people like the ones that happened to you. It took me until 8th grade to realize I had to stop. I was that kid who teachers talked about behind my back, nobody wanted me in there class. And even after I changed and stopped being mean there was always that tension that I was going to do something. But now my life is a mess now. When I bullied people I was ok, I didn't have any problems. Now I'm the one who sticks up for kids in the halls and I have more problems then ever. I don't get it. I'm turned my life around and became the good but all the bad things happen to me. I get in fights with my family all the time, I have an older brother in the marines who constantly tells me I'm worthless and I should never follow in his footsteps because I'd be too weak. My mom honestly could care less about me and my dad does nothing but blame me for everything. I'm on the wrestling team and I get beat up and made fun of everyday at practice because I don't do drugs or drink. I have 5 real friends and they are the only ones who know these things about me. Sometimes i think that if I go back to bullying things will be normal again. But I'm getting tired. Tired of going to school everyday with a smile on my face, and having this reputation of being tough when I just want to break down and stop. I've thought about suicide. But then you came to our school today, and everything you had to say was exactly right. So I just want led to thank you. You're true inspiration. If you kept through the living hell you went through then I can get through mine. Thank you.