

Hello, my name's Agustin Garcinuno, and instead of telling you my age or what school I go to— things that would promote a preconceived notion of how I think or what I stand for— I'm going to tell you all a story, one of my all time favorite stories actually. Now, this story begins with a man. One day, this man is walking down a path, and he encounters an egg— an eagle's egg. The man proceeds to take the egg, and place it in the nest of an ordinary backyard hen. Pretty soon this egg hatches, leaving a baby eagle to grow up with the chicks. All his life, this eagle did what the chickens did. He would poke around in the dirt for worms, and fly a few feet up in there— he would cluck around. As time passed, this eagle grew very very old. One day, he saw the most graceful object he had ever seen, soaring high above the clouds. "What's that?", he asked. "Oh that? That's an eagle", a chicken responds. "He is the king of all birds, the master of the skies". "But we— we're just chickens, we belong on the ground. So don't you worry about him because you will *never* be that" And that eagle lived and died a chicken, for that is what he thought he was. So you see, when we were children we dared to live a life of impracticality. We would dream big and expect nothing less of ourselves. We were professional athletes, doctors, astronauts, and so much more. And one day far after those years of dreaming, I had a scary realization. I had become a victim of complacency and so had you, but the worst part is that it's not our fault. It's the ingrained programming of society that leaves us to conform. The same programming that tells us to dream big, but not *too* big. To get a "safe" job, not necessarily a job you love. The same programming that says you can't make it to the pros, you can't start a company, you can't live in the house of your dreams, you can't, you can't, you can't, you can't. But I'm here to tell you you can. And for the rest of your life you will have two choices. To merely exist as the chicken you are not, or to live as the eagle you are.