

500 Words Scholarship Essay Example

This biographical essay helps us become acquainted with you in ways different from courses, grades, test scores, and other objective data. It demonstrates your ability to organize thoughts and express yourself. We are looking for an essay that will help us know you better as a person and as a student.

We are interested in learning more about you and the context in which you have grown up, formed your aspirations, and accomplished your academic successes. Please describe the factors and challenges that have most influenced you. How are they shaping your future aspirations?

When I was eight, I emigrated from China to the United States with my family. For years, I struggled with my identity as an immigrant, and being called an “F.O.B.,” a derogatory term for fresh off the boat, I felt more alienated than ever. I found it difficult to transition from Chinese to English, and my pronunciation had a strong accent, causing me to refrain from speaking in school. However, my father motivated me to overcome the language barrier. Even in his final stage of cancer in 2008, he continued to encourage me every day. Despite his shaking hands, he would practice English vocabulary with me to show me that even under the worst circumstances, one can overcome challenges. Never once did he show signs of pessimism about death. Instead, he remained positive, and his embodiment of optimism taught me to persevere and to have a strong work ethic. In my father’s final moments, I promised him that I would always try to face challenges directly and commit to my studies.

Remembering my vow, I have since dedicated much of my time to academics. To improve my English, I created hundreds of flashcards in middle school and prepared for the Specialized High School Admissions Test by studying review books in the library every day. My hard work paid off when I was admitted to Brooklyn Technical High School, a specialized high school. In a class of 1,300 students, I was selected to be in a research course called AP Capstone where students write college level research papers and propose real-world solutions to the issues they investigate. I wrote two seven-page research papers on the effects of emotional intelligence on

college students' academic performance and the ethical perspective on traditional Chinese medicine. To improve my writing, I also took advantage of rigorous courses at Baruch College and studied journalism over the summer after my sophomore year. One of my personal goals is to publish a book. In the past few months, I have been collaborating with a friend to write a children's book on tolerance of racial differences. We hope to submit it to the Diverse Minds Youth Writing Challenge and get it published so it can educate children about racial diversity.

In addition to writing, I aspire to enter the business field and become a successful entrepreneur. The seed of entrepreneurship was embedded in me at a young age: both my father and grandfather owned a grocery store in China. As a result of being exposed to their work on a daily basis, I developed an admiration for the risk-taking and innovative aspects of running a business. With my father's help, I started to sell toys to children in my neighborhood. That week, I went home, grinning ear to ear with cash in my bulging back pocket.

As I grew up, however, I came to realize that entrepreneurship was more than just about making money. It was about defying challenges and translating one's passion into practical inventions to improve society. As an immigrant from a low-income family, I have personally experienced the inequality of the American education system. To address this pressing issue, I hope to create a startup company that collaborates with non-profit organizations such as Henry Street Settlement to provide mentors and customized prep books for high school students who cannot afford after-school tutoring. Alongside this initiative, I aspire to create a free entrepreneurial program that teaches high school girls the confidence and skills needed to become the next generation's leading CEOs. By offering opportunities and resources for girls of different backgrounds, I hope to instill a passion for entrepreneurship at an early age and increase women's representation in the business world.