

PERSONAL STATEMENT SAMPLE

When I was a baby, I fell from my high chair because the armrest was too low. If my head hit the ground first, I could have died. Poorly designed products can literally kill people, but good products have the potential to save lives. In order to become a great mechanical engineer who is capable of designing high quality products, I need to enrich my own knowledge, and overcome any potential obstacle, like the time constraints and cultural issues I have encountered during my college education.

After I entered the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Wisconsin Madison, I joined SAE Baja, a student organization dedicated in designing and manufacturing small off-road cars, and I took charge of frame design and analysis. The design of the frame directly related to the performance of the car and the safety of our driver. From the moment I touched the steel frame, I committed to creating the very best frame design to help my team. I became involved with this team during my sophomore year, and have invested tremendous efforts in creating a lighter and stronger frame for our vehicle. Every week we made a small step forward, and all the steps converged to result in monumental success. We got 24th place in Auburn, 6th in Oregon, and then 4th in California. I am so glad that my efforts contributed to a big success, and the sense of achievement encourages me to investigate the field of mechanical engineering in-depth.

Behind the success, I encountered struggles and challenges. A huge amount of time was required to complete projects for my team. Every week, my team needed to spend 6 hours on regular activities in Baja, and extra hours when deadlines loomed close. When my classmates had to study for finals, I stayed with the team and finished manufacturing the frame and assembling the car day and night, so that we would be prepared to participate in the incoming competition. My sense of honor and commitment inspired me to use careful time management so that I could persist and defeat all potential obstacles.

Cultural differences was one of the biggest hurdles that I had to overcome when I joined the Baja team, as there were no Asian students involved on any of the four SAE teams at UW-Madison. Although I had no problem in communicating technical terminologies of auto parts and tools, I could not quite understand the cultural influences involving sports or movies that my teammates often referenced. Nevertheless, through my continued efforts of communicating with teammates and asking questions, this became a fantastic learning opportunity for me to study American culture. I participated in every possible activity with my teammates, whether it was doing community service or watching a football game. Eventually, I formed a solid relationship with my teammates, contributed a lot to the projects and became the frame team leader. In addition, though recruitment, we have four Asian students including a woman on our team now. All of my experiences lead me to believe that if I have a dream and persistently fight for it, obstacles can be overcome and the dream will come true.

I love the world around me, and I hope the products I make can benefit others and make this world a better place. To complete this goal, I will overcome any difficulty in front of me. Even though I have goals and intelligence, I still need to pursue a quality education. Graduate school at U of abcde will properly prepare me for a successful career in engineering design and analysis. After my graduation, I aim to engineer products that can bring people joy, convenience and safety.