

College Admission Essay

Individuality, that's what you're looking for, someone who stands out above the rest, not a facade or persona of excellence, but genuine character. At this point you know nothing about me; I'm just a name on a page to you, no different from the throngs of others eager to gain admission to the University of Washington, and there is really no way to accurately convey my distinction in 1000 words, especially without coming across as utterly pretentious. But if you stick with me and hear me out, I guarantee you'll have no problem accepting me as a Husky, a dream of mine since adolescence.

My high school experience was unconventional. I participated in the home-school program provided by Vashon High School called Family Link, and received my high school diploma through them. During that time I also furthered my education in the Running Start program at Tacoma Community College, earning dual credit and coming within 15 quarter credit hours of an Associate in Arts and Sciences, because that degree closely aligned with my high school requirements. From that information alone you could probably paint a mental image of your typical sheltered home-schooled student, but don't jump to any conclusions! I burst through the preconceived notions and stereotypes, leading the high school football team in rushing and our first trip to the state playoffs in school history. Needless to say, I was heavily involved in sports, starting three years in football and four in track and field. Juggling a full load at TCC, sports, and a part-time job serving tables was certainly a challenge. At times I felt overwhelmed, which contributed to a lack of focus, and slight decrease in performance. I believe that with full concentration and fewer distractions I could have been an honor student at TCC instead of slipping mildly to a 3.45 cumulative GPA. I can't express how excited I am to finish my Associate in Arts and Sciences at TCC in the Spring and apply myself fully at the University of Washington in the Fall.

After high school I rolled right into the Joshua Wilderness Institute (JWI) at Hume Lake, basically a religious internship that is fully inclusive and equally intense. I would attribute most of my growth and development as an individual to this program. We were taught incredible discipline, signing a contract to refrain from indulging in any kind of media, whether it be video, audio, or any video game for nine months, among other stringent rules. The intent was to teach self control, while focusing fully on the task at hand. We would participate in religious studies in the weekday morning, have a break in the afternoon, and going back at it in the evening. We worked almost every weekend to help offset the cost of our tuition. I thought I was busy in high school, but I've never been more occupied and engaged than

I was at that time in my life. Sprinkled into our schedule were various domestic and foreign trips, including volunteer work providing food for the homeless in Los Angeles, serving an orphanage for deaf children in Mexico, building a retaining wall around a women's center in the Dominican Republic, and immersing ourselves in the incredible culture of Israel for two weeks. The depth of culture that I experienced in JWI is truly immeasurable. Experiencing such diverse culture taught me to humbly observe and learn as I go through life, because the world is much larger than I am, and I'm just here for the ride.

A sailor's life was not the life for me. I finished JWI, and I knew I wanted to go to college, but I didn't know what to major in, and I didn't know how to pay for it. The Navy was a natural next step. It provided an opportunity to explore a field of interest, potentially see the world, and eventually pay for my higher education. It was perfect, only it wasn't. I scored in the 93rd percentile on their vocational test, affording me the opportunity to choose any occupation that I wanted. They sat me down in a room and explained my job opportunities and told me to choose, just like that. I chose their Advanced Electronics Computer Field, which would later give me the title of Electronic Technician, performing preventative and corrective maintenance on communications equipment. I later discovered that I didn't have

very much interest in electronics or electrical engineering, but I was naturally adept and excelled in my training, becoming a more than competent technician. I was also responsible for maintaining stock and ordering replacement repair parts, holding the title of Repair Parts Petty Officer (RPPO). I excelled in my position as RPPO and as a technician, but the Navy valued conformity and uniformity over individuality, which ultimately led to the Navy and I parting ways. I separated from the Navy under honorable conditions on January 9th, 2015.

I love coffee, and I have a mind for business. It is my intention to pursue a degree in business management in order to chase after my dream of working in the coffee industry, whether for corporate Starbucks or a smaller roasterie. Foster School of Business is the perfect catalyst for pursuing that goal. I plan on transferring to the UW with an Associate in Arts and Sciences and completing any prerequisites at the UW while applying to Foster School of Business.

I may still be just a name on a page to you, but there's a lot more to the name XXXX than you realize. I imparted who I am as well as I could in under 1000 words. Now it's up to you to accept me into your esteemed community and watch me flourish at the University of Washington.