

## College Supplemental Essay

I come from a world of second place. From a young age, I have been living in the shadow of my older sister who has set a high bar. Through her many accomplishments, it hasn't always been easy to live up to the expectations. It seemed that no matter how hard I tried, my sister always outperformed me. In our grade school talent show, she played the lead melody while I was stuck playing the harmony in our violin duet. In the eighth grade, I tried to run for student council as she did, but I ended up losing the race for president to the more popular candidate. No matter how many textbook pages I read, I could not get a better AP U.S. History grade than her. Finally, when my sister got accepted and recently graduated from a prestigious university, I had aunts, uncles, friends, and acquaintances asked me whether I could get into a college of a prestigious caliber. That was the peak. I kept telling myself, "Wow! I'm so proud of my sister, but why did she have to set the bar so high?"

Although second place has been a recurring theme, there has always been one significant thing I was better at and that was math. I rocked at math, specifically fast computation and algebra. One day, my sister came home from school and was struggling with a geometry problem for twenty minutes. I looked at the problem and said, "Can't you just multiply these variables and cancel out?" Suddenly, she stared at me with a look of shock. Whenever my sister would drag me to shop for clothes, I could always tell her the price of something on sale, what the better deal was, and how much we'd be paying with tax. She was always amazed that I could do all of that computation in my head so quickly. Math gave me bragging rights. I've also used my math talent in assisting teachers in class problems and helping my fellow classmates understand challenging math issues.

After realizing that math was my strong suit, I came to love math. The numbers, fast computation, and being better at it than my sister is icing on the cake. This revelation has encouraged me to excel and hone my math skills. I want to attend a world class university with high level academics. My world of second place has made me aspire to major in mathematics and become an actuary. I've learned a couple of things from living in my sister's shadow. I see that coming in second place has led me to find that one calling where I came in first. The last, and probably the most important thing I've learned is that we each have different talents and characteristics, which either we use as a competitive benchmark or use to improve ourselves and channel our passions in achieving our goals. Being second is not so bad after all especially when the person who is instrumental in my development is my sister whom I love and respect the most. I might come in second place from time to time, but at least I'm not afraid to try.

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