

College Admission Essay

Nature versus nurture, which is a topic that has long been debated. I believe myself to be, in large part, a product of my community. I am, what many people consider to be, an independent and well-grounded person because of numerous factors in my life. First and foremost, my family has had a significant impact on who I am as a human being, but I am also a product of my community, including the experiences and knowledge gained through my career in the Boy Scouts of America.

My family has, in many ways, made me who I am today, whether it was through exposure to different cultures on our vacations or my parents' constant urgings and the life lessons they have taught me, they have helped make me who I am today. Through my travels with my family I have had the opportunity to visit second and third world countries such as Honduras and Egypt, giving me exposure to those not as well-off as I am as well as letting me know that I lead a privileged life. These experiences have given me a better view on how life is lived, and that I should enjoy what I have while I have it. In addition, my parents teach me life lessons by way of trial by fire, giving me slight warnings then letting me make the mistake but also helping me back to my feet after so I can learn from it. My parents teaching style has allowed me to take risks and experience success as well as failure which has allowed me to think on my feet and for myself. My family has and will continue to make a massive impact on who I am as a person.

My community has also shaped me as a person through its education system, friendships, and supporting people so many of whom I cannot name that have helped me to where I am today. Seven Lakes is an extremely competitive school, introducing me to the fact that hard work will get you anywhere you want to be, as long as you are willing to put in the time to see it all the way through. Hard work alone won't always get you where you want to be, for that you need a support structure such as people that you can count on. I have an extremely close-knit group of friends, and all of us rely on one another for support, for comedy relief when unexpected difficulties pop up as well as encouraging me to be my own person and to rely on myself to try things out of my comfort zone. Hard work, in tandem with a dependable support structure will provide some of the tools to maintain a clear picture of reality, life, and a basis for success in achieving your goals.

The Boy Scouts of America's program has also had a tremendous impact on my life through its numerous leadership opportunities and constant interactions with adults and peers who have taught me many things about life. The adults from my troop, chose me and a few others from my troop to go to a leadership course called National Youth Leadership Training. The National Youth Leadership Training course provided me with skills necessary for a leadership role. One of the leadership skills that I learned was leading through servant leadership, leading people by joining the fray instead of issuing orders from a throne of one's own design. In addition, this course opened up the opportunity for me to be able to go into several leadership positions in the troop. However, you can't learn everything by being a leader, so the adults often would help me and teach me, showing me alternate approaches to tasks and interpersonal interactions. Scouts gave me many opportunities in life and was one of the largest forces to shape who I am today forcing me to be both independent and a team player.

In conclusion, from my travels, to my education, to my friendships and scouting career, I am a product of the world around me. Without all of the experiences I have had in life, I would still be the shy boy without the mindset to take risks, without the need for independence and without any thought of anything but myself. So in the battle of nature versus nurture, I choose to think that nurture has more of an effect.

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