

Class of 2010
College Essay Prep
Successful Essay Examples

Christian College Essay Example

Though I've come so far, I am an unfinished work. I always feel like I know all the answers to every problem or tribulation. That is, until, I hit the point where there is no way I can deal with life on my own. It takes more than my own being to achieve the answers and direction that I seek. I realized that without God, I couldn't be the person I want to be.

I anxiously waited as the announcer finally opened the envelope and said "The Oscar of actress of the year goes to...(NAME)." Shocked I jumped out of my seat and headed toward the stage to accept my prize. Once there, I said, "I just want to first and foremost thank God. Without Him, I would have never found the courage to pursue my passion. It is by the strength and faith that He has instilled in me that I have made it this far in life. I knew since I was 6 years old that performing was my passion and that I'd be rather exceptional at it one day..." Then I wake up to the sun shining in my face, birds chirping, and a new day for me to strive for my goal of winning that Oscar. When acting or dancing, I feel so peaceful and at one with the earth that I realize I am a creation of God, more so a vessel. My talent, which is still being developed, helps to remind me of God and all he can do. Over a seventeen-year lifespan of attending church, I realize through my passion, that God drives everything. Being a great performer is a dream of mine that encourages me to grow and learn as a Christian.

To make those dreams come true, there are a lot of decisions I'd have to make along the way. By having a Christian outlook on the world, helping me to make those decisions, there is no way to fail. I am my own barrier and God is helping me to realize that I need to stop blocking my own path, to just be free from worry and stress, and to trust that he will guide me in the right direction. I live everyday now, with the quote "Faith makes things possible, not easy." I know that I will be scared when the director yells "Action!" and shaky when that moment comes to show to world what I'm made of. But I know that there will be no feeling to describe what performing is like for me, to finally feel the elation, oneness with the earth, peace and joy that I've always been waiting for. Every time I get ready to put on a show, it will feel like the first time every time and I will finally feel alive, purposeful and everything else great. Only God can help me get to that point in my life and when I get there I know that I am a creation of God, more so, a vessel.

UC Prompt #1 Essay Example

Respond to both questions, using a maximum of 1,000 words total. You may allocate the word count as you wish. If you choose to respond to one prompt at greater length, we suggest your shorter answer be no less than 250 words. Stay within the word limit as closely as you can. A little over — 1,012 words, for example — is fine.

Prompt #1

Describe the world you come from — for example, your family, community or school — and tell us how your world has shaped your dreams and aspirations. *

Read here:

An important part of my life, this world I come from, a world of howls, roars, screeches, and quacks, feels very much like a planet unto itself. A world where jungle and desert, marsh and marina, outback, savannah, and rainforest all collide to form a microcosm of the natural world at large, my world lives and breathes according to its own unique rhythm. Although some claim that this rhythm and my world are simulated entities with only negative effects, I know this to be untrue, having seen and participated firsthand in the good my world does. In addition to positively affecting both others and the environment, my world has clearly positively affected me. Enabling me to meet new people and have tremendous experiences, my world has influenced my goals and has catalyzed my interest in community service from an activity to a lifelong pursuit and focus.

What is my world, this place where conservation, internationalism, and community service abound and have global impact? It is the Greater Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens (LA Zoo), a place where (since September 2004) I have volunteered over 190 hours as an Eco-Corps member (a zoo teen docent). The LA Zoo is an important world in my life not only because of my volunteer work there but also because of my extensive history there. As a child, I fell in love with the Los Angeles Zoo. With its towering trees and winding paths, I always perceived a trip to the zoo to be an exotic excursion to another world where the animals and landscapes of the forests of Borneo, the savannahs of Kenya, the rainforests of the Amazon, and the arid plains of Australia all came together. A major source of my love of animals, the zoo has also greatly influenced—and in part, has allowed me to actualize—my dream to interact with and help peoples from all over the world. Known as an international destination, the LA Zoo attracts people from all over the world. As a docent and volunteer, I have both worked with volunteers from other countries and have assisted visitors from other countries. The zoo is for me one of my favorite places because of its ability to bring together peoples of different nationalities and cultures. Volunteering at the zoo has not only fulfilled this dream, but also has integrated opportunities for me to infuse the human component of interaction into the animal-focused zoo experience.

Allowing me to reach out to people both within and without my immediate cultural and spatial communities, the zoo is a world where I can reach out to others across racial, regional, and international boundaries. Through experiences as diverse as befriending German volunteers and corresponding with Ugandan orphans, I believe that volunteering at the zoo has become a significant activity in my life highlighting the importance and essentiality of human connections across boundaries.

Though I imagined I would grow up to travel to foreign countries, bypassing barriers of faith, culture, and language to study and improve the interactions between peoples and animals around the world.

The significance of my experience resides within this element of humanity, lying in the reality that volunteering at the zoo allows me to transcend boundaries and strengthens my desire to engage and effect a positive impact in the world.

One of the most fulfilling aspects of my experience as an Eco-Cops volunteer at the Los Angeles Zoo, the educational aspect, zoo exceeded my original expectations of a one-way teaching relationship. Upon joining the pilot Eco-Corps program in August 2004, I was informed that during the first 10 weeks of the program I would attend six-hour Saturday training classes. However, I naively assumed that at the end of those ten weeks, the “learning aspect” of volunteering would end. Instead, the zoo became for me a classroom where the learning never stops and the teaching relationship is a two-way bond—I learn as much from other zoo docents and the visitors as they learn from me.

Allowing me to reach out to people both within and without my immediate cultural and spatial communities, the zoo presents itself as an opportunity for volunteer and civic duty across racial, regional, and international boundaries. As both an African-American and as a young woman, I am a strong role model for boys and girls of many backgrounds. Through experiences as diverse as befriending German volunteers and corresponding with Ugandan orphans, I believe that volunteering at the zoo has become a significant activity in my life highlighting the importance and essentiality of human connections across boundaries.

Essay on How an Artistic Gift Made a Person Who They Are

Performing, I feel, is my purpose, but that doesn't mean I've always had the best experience with it. Going back to that day, I was 6 years old. "2 minutes until you're on Asia," my coach told me, and man I was excited.

Before that day, in practice, I was undoubtedly the best at the floor dance routine. Because I lacked in other areas such as balance beam and uneven bars, I took this position with pride and joy. My coach even put me in the front because I performed so well. The other girls couldn't touch my beyond perfect round offs and cart wheels combined with how vivacious I made simple dance moves seem. I could not wait to show the world what I had been practicing everyday for a month straight.

The music comes on, my particular favorite song at the time, "Bubble Gum Pop." In my head I recite "5, 6, 7, and 8," which mark the first step to the dance. Like a tsunami, a huge wave of nerves crashed into my body. The first step comes, then the next step, and the next. I still have not moved at all. I scan my memory and it leaves me abandoned on the dance floor without a hint or clue of what to do next. I look to my left, "Oh okay I remember that part," so I do the 3 steps, but soon I blanked again. I look to my right, "has that move always been in the dance?" I ask myself. I look up at the audience, but it's just a blur. My palms sweat and so does my upper lip. I never expected a 5-minute routine to feel like one hour. Around me, all the girls who had once despised my position of fame flowed perfectly to the lyrics "bubble gum bubble gum bubble gum pop."

The last part of the dance was approaching. A front somersault into a middle split, with our hands reached out to the audience with big smiles on our faces. If I had failed at the rest of the dance, I would for sure nail this part. Seeing how I could not seem to get on the same beat as the rest of the girls, I began the somersault when everyone was already in ending position. I finished about 4 seconds after the song ends, which is about as off as an un-tuned guitar. No amount of words could describe the amount of embarrassment that was running all throughout my body. I had failed my coach, my mother, and mainly myself.

At the time all I felt was embarrassment. This was the worst experience of my life. How is it that I could be so bad at something that I loved and worked so hard for? Because of all that, I stopped everything relating to performing.

Years pass by, and I seem to have this growing understanding of the pride and joy I had as a young child. The trauma that happened so many years ago stuck to me like it had happened 5 minutes ago. My faith in God has given me the strength to stop being fearful and give my dreams a shot. It has taught me to not look at others' stories of failure and their advice on how it will be a waste of time, but to live by my own purpose, and that I should do my best and forget the rest. My passion for my art has forced a closer relationship with God because I realized that I do need him in order to be all that I know I can be.

Prompt #1: “Describe the world you came from – for example, your family, community or school – and tell us how your world has shaped your dreams and aspirations.”

Ever since I was born, I was always brought up in a Christian environment. I had regularly attended church with my family, and as I grew older I began to gain a better understanding about what Christianity was all about. The main event that has made me who I am today was the Youth Conference of 2006, and I aspire to be more like Christ everyday.

Every year, the Churches of Christ organize an event for all youth ages 12 through college age. It takes place in April in a place called Mount Herman, where the young Christians come together to learn about Christ in fun ways because the classes and sermons are taught directly towards them so they can relate to what is being said. Before attending the Youth Conference, I was just an average 14 year old who wanted to be liked, accepted, and to fit in with the crowd. Just like any other adolescent, I had wanted to dress like everybody who had name brand and designer clothing because I wanted to be a part of the people who were considered “cool”. Then after hearing about the Youth Conference, I wanted to go because some of my friends who had attended before said that it was fun. I had heard that there was good food, recreational activities such as basketball, volleyball, and other sports during free time, a pageant, interesting lessons, and an outing at the Santa Cruz Boardwalk after it was over.

When I had got there, it was just what I had expected. The food was good, the classes were fun, and I even got to meet a lot of new people. One thing about the conference had a lasting effect on me: every sermon had spoken to me and was directly about my life. Every lesson had a central theme of being yourself and living for Christ. The preacher spoke of wearing the name of Jesus, rather than expensive clothes, listening to music that's good for the spirit and not corrupting the mind, and most importantly, living your life to please God and not superficial people of the world. Everything I learned from that single event is still implanted in my mind, and is still being practiced in my everyday life, and I am still striving to become even better.

In closing, the Youth Conference of 2006 has molded me to be myself and not to be concerned so much as to what others think of me. It has caused me to want a better relationship with God, instead of those who are negatively affecting my life. More and more I aspire to be of Christ rather than someone of the world.

Prompt #2: “Tell us about a personal quality, talent, accomplishment, contribution or experience that is important to you. What about this quality or accomplishment makes your proud and how does it relate to the person you are?”

In my junior year of high school, I have faced a series of obstacles that I had to overcome. I have worked diligently to try to balance a rigorous course schedule, on top of managing my newfound responsibilities upon the events of my parents' separation. A main accomplishment that is important to me was passing calculus both semesters. I am proud of this because I felt successful for overcoming that impediment, and I am glad because it helped shape my mindset that I can get through any difficulty.

During the beginning of my 11th grade year, everything seemed fine. I was getting good grades, and I was a happy, smiling person like my usual self. Then by time the progress reports came out, I realized that I was no longer doing as well in math as I had been in previous years. It then seemed like my shortcomings in calculus were affecting the rest of my schoolwork. In the confined four walls of the classroom filled with numbers and equations and symbols that my mind could not comprehend, I was subjected to try to understand the material. As the teacher spoke math to me, along with my fellow classmates, every word was being thrown hard at me, knocking me down hard while all of the other students were catching it without strain. I felt that I was at a disadvantage because I always had less time to study and do homework because of the physical and emotional stresses that were placed upon me from

my parents' splitting. As I continually failed calculus test after test, I wanted to give up and switch out of the class completely.

I talked with my teacher, I talked with my counselor, I talked with my mom, and I thought it over with myself what I should do. Just when the paperwork was almost complete for my class change, I had to speak with a former math teacher of mine, whose chairman-of-the-math-department signature was all I needed. He told me that I should try his class before I considered completely dropping the class. It turned out to be not so bad. His teaching methods were far more comprehensible, and the additional after-school help I had been receiving also proved beneficial. After many consecutive weeks of hard work and dedication, it had finally paid off, and in the end I had finally and successfully completed calculus.

Overall, this journey in my life was a difficult one, but I made it through. I am grateful that I didn't have to do it alone, because I had the support of my close relatives, friends, tutors, and especially my teacher. Even though I had felt defeated by the course and was at the point of discontinuing it, those individuals had faith in me and inspired me to persist. This experience has shown me to never give up, and has inspired me to help others in need, no matter what they are struggling with.