***TELL US ABOUT WHO YOU ARE. HOW WOULD YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND/OR MEMBERS OF YOUR COMMUNITY DESCRIBE YOU? IF POSSIBLE, PLEASE INCLUDE SOMETHING ABOUT YOURSELF THAT YOU ARE MOST PROUD OF AND WHY. (MAXIMUM 1500 CHARACTERS)***

Every night before my birthday, I like to stay awake and reflect on all that has happened throughout my life. There, I would identify instances where I could do better and come up with new goals for the upcoming year. For my 16th birthday, I decided on a different approach to life, an approach that has evolved my life’s purpose and became one of the things that I am most proud to have accomplished: A balanced life. More specifically, managing to balance out my ambitions with my social life and health.

In school, I am widely recognized as a highly ambitious and persistent student. I strive to be the best by constantly challenging myself to learn and grow. While I might be too hard on myself sometimes, this lifestyle has made me a regular contender for the top ranks and even placed me first  in several semesters, earning me scholarships. I also value being a part of positive communities so I attend numerous organizations to connect with great people and perhaps learn something new from each of them. People often see me as a highly active member and  a mature leader, able to solve issues from a broader perspective. Hence, my peers trust me in leadership positions, as someone to mediate conflicts, and as someone to give advice.

Since pursuing those endeavors consumes a lot of time and energy, I try to stay healthy both physically and mentally by always enjoying what I do, using curiosity and learning desire as my main source of motivation and managing my time effectively. I also recognized the need to balance out my personal endeavors with my social work. Hence, I always find ways to contribute to society by being a part of the church apostles and other social activities. There, I am able to help out my community through organizing fundraisers, free workshops, and tutoring, whilst serving the lord through my service in church.

***WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU? WHY? (MAXIMUM 1500 CHARACTERS)***

Why some people are more successful than others has always baffled me. Is it due to their innate talent or simply the copious support they receive? After identifying several competition winners who hailed from underachievers, I was quick to realize that this had nothing to do with talents or the support they got. I also saw that those successful would always be optimistic and driven to reach their goals, as opposed to unsuccessful people who were negligent and quick to give up. Hence, I believe that the mindset is the most prominent factor. It is the core of our motivation, decisions, and thoughts, predominantly defining who we are. If looked carefully, all the great qualities of a person are derived from their mindset, but so do the less desirable ones.

One’s mindset can truly make or break a person. Therefore, I have always tried to employ a growth mindset to surround myself with positive traits. I’ll always challenge myself to learn and grow, always looking up to those more successful than I am, willing to learn from them. This way I can stay motivated, persistent, and avoid being presumptuous. I have also tried viewing mistakes and shortcomings as the most valuable lessons. This way I don’t spend most of my time regretting but rather focusing on the things I can learn from those experiences. Through the growth mindset, I learn to view organizations as a place to learn and connect with new people. This way I can push myself to contribute the best I can, gaining the trust of my fellow team members and broadening my social network. Overall, I am satisfied with my mindsets. I hope to maintain these mindsets and perhaps refine them in the future.