# oportunities

# **Version 1: Long Essay**

Growing up in Kimananga village, Kapoleseroi sub-location, Bingwa location, Chepalungu constituency, Bomet county, I always knew that I was a smart girl. However, I also knew that being smart was not always valued in my community, especially for girls. As a child, I sometimes felt intimidated by my own intelligence, as it made me stand out from other girls in my community. Girls' education was often shunned, and many girls were discouraged from pursuing their dreams. However, despite these challenges, I never gave up on my education.

My family was not wealthy, and we lived in a small mud house with no running water or electricity. My parents were farmers, and our primary source of income came from selling our crops. Despite the challenges, my parents always encouraged me to study hard and do well in school. They knew that education was the only way out of poverty and did everything they could to support me. However, one of the biggest challenges I faced as a child was getting enough money to pay for school fees. My father was the only breadwinner in our family, and his income was often not enough to cover all of our basic needs, let alone pay for my education. To overcome this obstacle, I found odd jobs to help pay for school fees, waking up early to help my neighbors with their farming chores or doing small jobs for shop owners in the village to earn some money.

Despite these challenges, I was a successful student. I was always at the top of my class, and I was determined to get good grades so that I could go to university. Education was always important to me because I knew that it was the key to breaking the cycle of poverty and creating opportunities for myself and my family. I saw firsthand how poverty impacted my community, particularly children who were not able to attend school due to a lack of resources. I was determined to succeed and knew that education was the key to improving our living standards.

One of the biggest difficulties I had to overcome was the lack of resources at my school. We had few textbooks and other learning materials, and the teachers were often overworked and underpaid. Despite this, I never gave up. I was determined to succeed, and I worked hard every day to achieve my goals. I found odd jobs to help pay for

school fees, and I received support from my parents, who always believed in me and encouraged me to pursue my dreams.

In the end, my hard work paid off. I graduated from high school with impressive grades and will be applying to university. This was a dream come true for me and my family. I was the second person in my family to go to university, and I knew that this was an incredible opportunity for me. Despite the challenges I faced, I am proud of what I have achieved.

Looking to the future, I have a strong desire to help other children from humble backgrounds to acquire an education and become successful. I believe that education is a powerful tool that can transform lives and communities. I plan to use my success as a platform to inspire and mentor young people, especially those who face similar challenges to the ones I faced growing up. I want to help them realize their full potential and achieve their dreams, just like I did.

In conclusion, my journey to success has been one of perseverance, hard work, and determination. Despite various obstacles, I overcame them to become the successful student I am today. I am grateful for the support I received from my parents, who always believed in me, and I am excited about the future. I hope to use my success to inspire and empower others to achieve their full potential. Together, we can break the cycle of poverty and create a better future for all.

Word count: 613

# **Version 2: Long Essay**

My name is Abigael, and I come from Kimananga village in Chepalungu constituency, Bomet county, Kenya. Growing up in a small rural village in Kenya was not easy. Our home was a small mud house with no electricity or running water. We had to fetch water from a nearby river and use a kerosene lamp for light. During the dry seasons, water was scarce, and we had to walk long distances to get to a nearby river to fetch water, which was often dirty and contaminated. Despite these challenges, my parents always encouraged me to study hard and do well in school. They knew that education was the only way out of poverty and did everything they could to support me.

One of the biggest challenges I faced as a child was getting enough money to pay for school fees. My father was the only breadwinner in our family, and his income was often not enough to cover all of our basic needs, let alone pay for my education. To overcome this obstacle, I developed a personal strategy. I found odd jobs to help pay for school fees, waking up early to help my neighbors with their farming chores or doing small jobs for shop owners in the village to earn some money. This was not easy, but my determination paid off when I scored an A- of 77 points in my studies.

Despite the challenges, I was a successful student. I was always at the top of my class, and I was determined to get good grades so that I could go to university. There were many difficulties that I had to overcome to achieve my goals. One of the biggest challenges was the lack of resources at my school. We had few textbooks and other learning materials, and the teachers were often overworked and underpaid. Despite this, I never gave up. I was determined to succeed, and I worked hard every day to achieve my goals.

In the end, my hard work paid off. I graduated from high school with impressive grades and was accepted to university. This was a dream come true for me and my family. I was the first person in my family to go to university, and I knew that this was an incredible opportunity for me. Despite the challenges I faced, I am proud of what I have achieved. I never gave up on my dreams, and I knew that education was the key to a better life. Today, I am a successful student, and I hope to use my education to make a difference in the world. I want to give back to my community and help other young people achieve their dreams.

My journey to success has been one of perseverance, hard work, and determination. Despite various obstacles, I overcame them to become the successful student I am today. I am grateful for the support I received from my church and teachers, and I am excited about the future. I plan to use my success as a platform to inspire and mentor young people, especially those who face similar challenges to the ones I faced growing up. I want to help them realize their full potential and achieve their dreams, just like I did. I believe that education is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty and creating opportunities for individuals, families, and communities.

Word count: 554

### **Essay 1**

Visiting the sick is the activity that is most important to me. As a child, I would accompany my mother to hospitals to visit her sick friend. This sparked a love for the sick in me. The challenge that I faced was how to give hope and comfort to patients who were fighting terminal illnesses. The importance of overcoming this challenge cannot be overstated, as patients need hope to fight on. If left unchecked, patients could lose hope and even give up the will to live.

To solve this problem, I started visiting cancer patients at the local hospital. I spoke to them, encouraged them, and gave them hope. My involvement was crucial to the success of the project, as patients needed someone to talk to and get support from.

The impact of my visits cannot be quantified, but I vividly remember visiting a cancer patient who had lost all hope. I spoke to her, shared stories with her, and gave her hope. A week later, she was discharged from the hospital with renewed energy and a positive outlook on life. This experience taught me that a little act of kindness can go a long way in bringing hope to those who need it the most.

# Essay 2

One of the places that is most important to me is my school. I have spent countless hours there over the past few years, learning and growing as a student and as a person. This place matters to me for several reasons.

Firstly, my school is where I have made some of my closest friends. I have shared so many experiences with my classmates, from studying for exams to participating in extracurricular activities. These experiences have brought us closer together, and I am grateful for the friendships that I have formed at school.

Secondly, my school is where I have learned so much about the world and about myself. The teachers and staff have challenged me to think critically, to question assumptions, and to explore new ideas. They have also encouraged me to develop my own interests and passions, and to pursue them with enthusiasm and dedication.

Finally, my school is a place that has helped me to prepare for the future. Whether it is through academic classes, extracurricular activities, or career counseling, my school has provided me with the tools and resources I need to succeed in life. I feel confident and prepared to take on whatever challenges may come my way, thanks to the education I have received at school.

Word count: 163

## Essay 3

#### Version I

My passion for oncology has been ignited by my desire to make a difference in the lives of cancer patients. Cancer is a devastating disease that affects millions of people worldwide, and I am committed to being part of the solution. My goal is to pursue a career in oncology research, with a focus on developing new treatments and therapies that can improve the lives of cancer patients.

To achieve this goal, I plan to pursue a degree in oncology at a top US university. I am excited about the opportunities that such a program would offer, including exposure to cutting-edge research, access to world-class faculty, and the chance to collaborate with other talented students. I am confident that this education will provide me with the knowledge and skills I need to make a meaningful contribution to the field of oncology.

In addition to my studies, I plan to gain practical experience through internships and research projects. I believe that hands-on experience is essential for developing the skills and expertise necessary to make a real impact in the field. I am eager to learn from experienced professionals and to contribute to ongoing research efforts.

My ultimate goal is to become a leading researcher in the field of oncology, with a focus on developing new treatments and therapies that can improve the lives of cancer patients. I am excited about the possibilities that lie ahead and look forward to making a difference in the fight against cancer.

#### version II

As an aspiring student, my passion for medicine and the desire to help cancer patients has led me to choose oncology as my field of study. Oncology, the study and treatment of cancer, is a field that requires constant innovation and a drive to improve patient outcomes. The opportunity to learn and apply the latest medical technologies and techniques to combat cancer is what excites me about this field.

I am fully aware that a career in oncology requires rigorous education, hard work, and determination, but I am confident that I possess the necessary qualities to excel in this

field. By studying oncology, I hope to gain an in-depth understanding of cancer's nature, its causes, and how to manage and treat it effectively.

My ultimate goal is to become an oncologist, working directly with patients and their families to provide compassionate care while pushing the boundaries of cancer treatment. I am also interested in the research aspect of oncology, contributing to the discovery of new treatments and therapies that could change the lives of millions of people.

### **Essay IV**

Upon my return from studying in the United States of America, I am eager to make a meaningful contribution to my community and country. My primary goal is to build a school that allows students to focus on their passions and interests. I envision a school that values creativity, innovation, and critical thinking, and provides students with the resources and support they need to pursue their dreams. I believe that by providing quality education, we can empower young people to become agents of change in their communities.

Another area that is of great importance to me is helping girls access vital items such as sanitary pads. In many parts of my country, girls miss school due to a lack of access to sanitary pads, which negatively impacts their academic performance and future prospects. I am committed to providing sanitary pads to girls in need, ensuring they have the necessary resources to attend school regularly and achieve their full potential.

My ultimate goal is to make a positive impact in the lives of young people in my community and country. By building a school that encourages creativity and innovation, and by providing girls with essential items such as sanitary pads, I hope to contribute to the development of a more prosperous and equitable society.

#### Version II

Upon my return to Kenya after studying in the United States of America, I hope to make a significant contribution to my community and country. There are two main areas where I would like to focus my efforts: education and girls' empowerment.

Firstly, I believe that education is a crucial component of development, and as such, I would like to build a school that enables students to focus on what they love doing. In Kenya, many schools have a rigid curriculum that does not allow students to explore their passions and interests fully. Therefore, my school would be a place where students can pursue their hobbies and interests, including sports, music, and art, while still receiving a quality education.

Secondly, I believe that girls' empowerment is critical to the development of any society. In Kenya, many girls face challenges in accessing vital items like sanitary pads, which affects their education and overall well-being. Therefore, I would like to establish a program that provides sanitary pads and other essential items to girls who need them. This program would also offer mentorship and support to help girls achieve their full potential.

## Essay 5

I believe that I am uniquely qualified for this program due to my combination of academic excellence, leadership experience, and community involvement. As a high-achieving student with a passion for science and medicine, I have consistently pushed myself to excel in my studies and pursue opportunities for personal and academic growth.

In addition to my academic achievements, I have also demonstrated leadership skills through my involvement in various extracurricular activities. For example, I am the founder and president of a community service club that has organized several successful initiatives to help those in need in my community. I have also served as a mentor and tutor to younger students, helping them to achieve their academic goals.

Finally, I am committed to making a positive impact in my community and country. Through my involvement in various community service projects and initiatives, I have gained a deep understanding of the challenges facing my country and the need for innovative solutions. I believe that my combination of academic excellence, leadership experience, and commitment to service make me a strong candidate for this program.

# Abigael

# <u>high school</u>