Aditya Patel

APUSH

Period 4

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Who Are You Essay

1. My name is Aditya Patel. I’m an only child born in Bangalore, India on April 12, 2004. My parents and I immigrated to the United States shortly after my sixth birthday, to the rural town of Bentonville, Arkansas. A year later, we moved to Fremont, and recently celebrated our eighth year here. When we first moved to the US, my parents assumed that we would be going back to India within a year or two, so we did the most traveling we could during that short time. We visited New York City, Niagara Falls, Dallas, Houston, Miami, Everglades, Key West, Los Vegas, Southern California, and many other places. This was one of the most exciting periods of my life and I remember it well. Ever since we decided to settle down in Fremont, however, we stayed a bit more reserved. Soon after moving here, my family discovered our love for camping and the outdoors. We do our best to visit new natural parks and expose ourselves to the Californian outdoors as much as possible. Hiking up and down the Yosemite mountains and camping in the Lake Tahoe is one of the best experiences America has to offer, and I’m glad to have done so. At home, my parents and I spend most of our time together in our backyard, growing fruits and vegetables. We talk mainly in English, but sometimes converse in Hindi when talking to relatives and friends. Aside from my parents and I, my grandparents often come from India for a few months to stay with us, and recently, my uncle and cousin lived with us as they got their Computer Science degrees from nearby colleges.

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2. Looking back, my family history has never failed to make me proud. My parents and grandparents were all born and raised in India. We are all also Hindu. My grandparents on my dad's side grew up in a small farming village, inside a one-room house. From there, they moved to the big city, bringing them and their children to the middle-class. They built themselves a three-story house and gave their children a good education. They attribute their success to their faith in Hinduism and are deeply religious now. My other grandparents were very affluent from their college education, with my grandpa working as a lawyer, an engineer and manager at a coal-fired cooling plant, and nowadays, a farmer. My father and mother both grew up in supporting families and ended up finishing their college education to become a computer engineer and a dentist, respectively. Soon after meeting, they moved to Bangalore and got married in 2002. My father found work in large software companies, and my mother, with her PhD in periodontology, started a medical test preparation company called AimMDS. I was born at this time. For the next 6 years, we lived well in the heart of the city, with many relatives from our extended families coming and staying with us. When my dad got an offer to come work in the United States, it was difficult for us to leave a place we knew so well. However, my parents decided that though it would be tough to move 8,000 miles away from all we knew, the money and quality of life would make up for it. My mother had to leave her company to operate without her leadership and had to leave behind her PhD, which would not be eligible in the United States. She instead decided to get into the Computer Science field, studying at SFSU for her Masters. Now, both my parents work at computer science companies, and we live a very good life. However, none of us have a green card, and my parents’ green card application date will probably give fruit in about fifteen more years. By then, I will have aged out of my dependent visa. I am doing my best to set myself up to get onto a work visa and not get deported.

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3. My high school experience so far has been good. I met my three best friends in middle school, so I was not ever alone or lonely throughout the last two years. The amount of people I know and am friends with has grown considerably, and not seeing anyone outside social media has been difficult. With them online, quarantine was fun. Aside from the massive success in meeting them, I have had a few other major successes and failures. In my freshman year, I thought that I should focus only on my hardest classes, which at the time, were math and English. I did end up succeeding in those classes, but while doing so, I neglected to study subjects which I considered less important and easy, such as Health and French. Throughout the year, I should have divided my time better amongst my classes, and not only focus on the hard ones. I did better on this in the second semester of freshman year, where I distributed my time much better and got better grades in more of my classes. Also, I learned that I learned better when working with some certain friends, especially in science and math. With my better managed time, I spent more time with my friends and began doing more extracurricular activities. I read the Hobbit and the Lord of the Rings trilogy, which became my favorite books, and I hope to see all the movies soon. I am not allowed to work, as an immigrant, but if I could, I would love to work as a soccer referee.

4. One of my best experiences has been learning to snowboard. Before 2018, I had only seen snow once, when I was caught in a blizzard in Arkansas, and I could not wait to learn. I was decent at skateboarding and thought that I wouldn’t have too much trouble or pain learning. When I went to the Lake Tahoe mountains, I absolutely loved learning to skateboard. After learning to go down the small and medium hills on the first day, zooming down the mountain and doing some jumps was incredibly fun. I went with one of my friends and learning to do tricks with him was amazing. I think snowboarding is fun because of it’s a mixture of the fun experience of snow with the fun of skateboarding, both of which I love. When I was there this winter, I was probably listening to my favorite album, Certified Hitmaker, and similar Hip-Hop music.

5. I have a few major goals for the year. Firstly, I want to stay fit by continuing to bike in the mornings. I have kept up with this well so far, going two or three times a week since school started. Another goal of mine is to do good in the USA Computing Olympiad. I have been practicing for the last few months and I believe I can get in the top few thousand in the country, and hopefully bring home a Gold. I also don’t want to forget about my Android App, which is almost ready for release and marketing. I mostly try to work on this on the weekends. I also keep time aside for History, which is my favorite subject. I love reading about the Industrial Revolution and the economy throughout history. Industrialization seems exciting and complex after millennia of comparatively slow development. I am also quite computer literate. I am experienced in all types of software, and having build my own PC a few years ago, have gotten good at debugging and fixing problems myself. I use digital technology a lot, from my app development, IDE for coding, photoshop and illustrator for art, to more conventional Word and PowerPoint for school.