



ATENEIO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY

Personal Essay

Name

Gagatiga, Lyka

Question

In order for the Committee on Admission and Aid to get to know you better, **please choose at least one significant experience or accomplishment that has helped define you as a person.** Kindly expound on it in the form of an essay.

Essay

"Crafting a Compassionate Cure: A Doctor in the Making"

The moment my sister required urgent medical attention, I found myself thrust into the challenging reality of the healthcare system in the Philippines. This experience was a profound eye-opener, highlighting glaring issues that demanded my attention. The long, agonizing waiting hours for a simple blood test and the excruciating 16-hour wait in line for a follow-up checkup shocked and disheartened me. This was not what I had expected from a hospital. The despondent faces, and voices of patients and their families further emphasized that the atmosphere was far from what a healthcare facility should provide. At that critical juncture, I felt an unwavering resolve to make a difference and effect change in this system that was failing its people. I was determined to be part of the solution, and I knew I had to embark on a journey that would lead me to this goal.

With this newfound determination, I set my sights on a future in the medical field. Seven years ago, I committed to this pursuit and never looked back. I became a young woman with an unquenchable thirst to find my path and make a meaningful impact on the healthcare landscape.

Recognizing the significance of academic excellence in achieving my goals, I dedicated myself to achieving higher grades. Pursuing knowledge became my primary focus, and the results were undeniable. I consistently ranked first in my class, excelling in various subjects and maintaining a coveted position on the honor roll. These achievements unveiled leadership qualities within me, and I naturally assumed the role of a group leader in various team activities. As a result, I was often part of the top-performing teams, which further fueled my desire to lead and excel.

My journey in education continued, and my passion for the medical field remained unwavering despite experiencing new interests and exploring different avenues. I delved into poetry, reading, and writing and even discovered the captivating world of coding. Poetry enlightened me about the paramount significance of effective communication, encompassing both thoughts and emotions. Through this realization, I understood that being a proficient communicator is as crucial as being a skilled doctor. Just as I learned to communicate with myself through poetry, I recognized the essentiality of becoming a compassionate and attentive listener to my future patients. Immersed within the vibrant IT community, my fascination for coding began to blossom. This curiosity ultimately steered me towards selecting

Computer System Servicing as an elective during my later years in junior high school. Through this experience, I realized that a doctor should perpetually nurture a spirit of curiosity. I may be exposed to the fascinating possibilities of coding, though I initially viewed it as a temporary pursuit.

Despite these diverse experiences, I remained within my original goal. When choosing a track for my high school senior year, I remained dedicated to STEM, reinforcing my commitment to the medical field. Over the years, my journey has been marked by shifts in interests and exploration of varied pursuits, but my ultimate goal has remained steadfast. I embarked on a journey of self-discovery, driven by the probing question, "What kind of doctor will I become?" This introspective quest led me to the hospital once more, and within those hallowed halls, I uncovered my purpose. I resolved to be the doctor our world yearns for, not merely a proficient practitioner but one infused with boundless compassion, unwavering empathy, meticulous conscientiousness, and an unwavering commitment to treating patients with the utmost respect.

My journey is a testament to the transformative power of determination, self-discovery, and an unquenchable thirst for knowledge. I have chosen to become a skilled practitioner and a healer who values compassion, empathy, and unwavering respect for those entrusted to my care. My journey is an ongoing story, and it seeks to bridge the gaps in our healthcare system, ensuring that no one has to endure the same suffering my sister faced that fateful day. With every step I take, I am one step closer to being the kind of doctor our world needs, and I am driven by an unrelenting passion to make a positive change in the lives of those I will have the privilege to serve.