**Stanford MBA Essay Responses**

*What matters most to you, and why?*

I have only spent eighteen months of my life alone. From the day my sister was born and onwards, I never spent a day without my siblings. My family grew more and more over the years, and now between my divorced parents, I am the eldest of nine siblings. Yes, nine. My family has provided me with the core values that I live by, a deep sense of community, inclusion and acceptance, and my passion for adventure.

I appreciate how lucky I am to have a family that will always pick up my calls, whether I need help reading a recipe or if I am struggling with moving to a new city. My entire family lives in Texas, while I am living in Atlanta. The decision to take a job here was not an easy one but I knew that it was the right choice for my career. Being in a new city was difficult but the sense of community provided by my family is what encouraged me to foster new relationships with those around me. Now having lived in Atlanta for three years, I make it a priority to be the friend you can always call, because that is what my siblings have always been to me.

My family has taught me inclusion and acceptance. With nine siblings, you learn to appreciate the uniqueness that everyone brings to the table. It is sometimes learning to acceptance small differences, such as one of my sisters wanting to live on a farm and the other in a city. It is also about accepting experiences completely unalike to my own, such as my sibling’s LGBTQ+ orientation or another sibling’s struggles with severe ADHD. I have seen so many challenges through my siblings, and I take pride being able to support them through all difficulties, no matter what they may be. Taking the time to understand their point of view and truly empathize with their experience is a value that I am grateful to have learned from my family.

It is not only my siblings that matter to me, but also my paternal grandmother, who I refer to as Grammy. Grammy is now eighty-four and only recently decided to stop scuba diving across the world. She has given me a sense of adventure and resilience that I will always hold dear in my heart. She took me on my first international trip at ten years old and encouraged me to learn to scuba dive with her. This trip was memorable because she allowed me to overcome my fear of the deep sea and joined me in my first dive. Her life motto, “if it’s to be it’s up to me” also rings true to how I view my own life. In October of 2021 I started as an Advisory Associate with KPMG and could not wait to treat Grammy to lunch and plan our next adventure together. As I continue to reach my goals and travel across the world, I will always owe part of my passion for adventure, to her.

I am the typical eldest sibling in a lot of ways. I am practical, decisive, full of advice (even when sometimes unwanted…), and always developing a plan. I work hard not just for my own desires, but because I want to uplift my family in the same way that they have done for me. My family matters most to be because of all the values they have taught me. My family has always had my best interest at heart, both academically and professionally, and will continue to inspire me as I take the next step in pursuing my MBA.

*Why Stanford?*

An MBA is more than an accreditation to educational efforts, it is also an experience that is shaped by the people around me. At Stanford, the strong sense of community, alumni network, and students all make up a group of people that align with my personal values. I want to surround myself with people that challenge me, encourage me, and can teach me something unexpected. During my time in Consulting, I have seen what it means to have powerful female leaders and the impact it has when you do not see yourself reflected in the room. Stanford empowers women in business and technology with its extracurriculars and programs such as Women in Management. I know I can make an impact to this community and encourage other women to achieve their goals at Stanford and in their professional careers. I have also always pushed myself to explore and learn more about the world. Stanford’s global opportunity programs align with my sense of adventure and desire to understand experiences unalike to my own. Stanford is the right fit of both educational challenge and community focused experiences, which provides a unique opportunity for me to grow into the leader I hope to be one day. I will bring my past experiences, perspectives, shortcomings, and a desire to learn from the faculty and leaders in the Stanford community.