

Who Are You?

My parents gave me the values I hold today and have made me the person I am. They never forced me to stick with a hobby; they didn't control who I was friends with; and they didn't force their political or religious beliefs on me. As a result, the friends I made, my interests, and my beliefs are all a strong part of me. Furthermore, I've made it to where I am today because of my parents' emphasis on my education. I couldn't have achieved what I have without my parents sending me to good schools and pushing me to do well. I remember in elementary school my dad would go over my homework with me each night and quiz me in preparation for tests. He forced me to put care into my homework and study until I was mature enough to make those decisions on my own. This set me up for success later in life.

My grandparents have also impacted my life by influencing some major decisions. They were the first to encourage me to become an engineer. When I was young and my grandparents asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up, they would remark how happy my uncle would be if I became an engineer like him. Once I got over my desire to be a lawyer, I decided to do engineering. My grandparents also encouraged me to come to Texas A&M. They were the first to put this school on my radar, and they continued to push for it while I was going through the college decision process. I can safely say I wouldn't be here without them.

I wouldn't be here without my academic achievement either. Becoming a National Merit scholar is what allowed me to afford this school. Reaching this goal was a major accomplishment, and I can trace my success back to 5 years ago. In 8th grade, I became very involved in the National Junior Honors Society, a community service club at my school. I began devoting a lot of time to service projects and this helped me get more involved in my school. Getting involved, and working alongside other high-achieving students, helped me become more serious about my grades. This was the year I began striving for all A's. Although I did not achieve this right away, setting this goal had a positive influence on my high school career.

Outside of school, I enjoy various hobbies, but none as important as playing board games. When I was young, my family would often go to my grandparents' house on the weekends for lunch. It was routine to play a board game during these visits. When I got older, I started going to the local game shop with my dad for board game Thursdays. Board games began to take over an even larger part of my time in 8th grade when my friend came on a family vacation with me. After playing board games with my family all weekend, my friend and I began playing board games on our own. Soon, playing board games became the main pastime of my friend group. No Friday night was complete without King of Tokyo or The Great Dalmuti. Board games are my favorite pastime.