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College Admission Essay

I am a product of my community. Through my family and my career in the Boy Scouts of America, I have become an independent and well-grounded person.

Growing up, my family exposed me to numerous cultures on our travels. I enjoyed visiting countries such as Honduras and Egypt, where I gained a glimpse into the lives of those who are not as well-off as I am. These experiences gave me a better view of how life is lived, and that I should enjoy the privileges I have been given. In addition, my parents taught me life lessons by way of trial by fire; they would give me light warnings, let me make mistakes on my own, and then help me get back on my feet afterwards. This teaching style allowed me to take risks and experience success as well as failure, which has given me the ability to think on my feet and for myself. My family has and will continue to make a massive impact on who I am as a person.

My community has also shaped me as a person through education, friendship, and the support of more people than I can name. Seven Lakes is an extremely competitive school; it introduced me to the fact that hard work will get you anywhere you want to be, as long as you are willing to put in the time to see it all the way through. In addition, I have learned that a support structure is necessary to accompany hard work in order to reach one's goals. I have an extremely close-knit group of friends, and all of us rely on one another for support – for comedic relief in the face of unexpected difficulties, as well as encouragement to be myself and to try things outside my comfort zone. Hard work, in tandem with a dependable support structure, has provided me with the tools to maintain a clear picture of reality and the basis for success in achieving my goals.

The Boy Scouts of America program has also had a tremendous impact on my life through its numerous opportunities for leadership and interaction with adults and peers. The adults from my troop chose me and a few others to take a leadership course called National Youth Leadership Training. The National Youth Leadership Training course gave me the skills necessary for a leadership role. For instance, I learned about leading through servant leadership, which involves leading by joining the fray, instead of issuing orders from a throne of one's own design. In addition, this course opened up the opportunity for me to take on several leadership positions in the troop. The scouts have given me many opportunities in life, and have been one of the largest forces to shape who I am today, forcing me to be both independent and a team player.

In conclusion, from my travels, education, friendships, and scouting career, I am a product of the world around me. Without all of these experiences, I would likely still be a shy boy without the mindset to take risks. While my nature has given me a strong foundation on which to build, it is the nurture I have received that has made me who I am today.

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