

Prompt: Are you a high school senior getting ready to head to college next year? Tell us about who inspired you to pursue a higher education and you could win a college scholarship! All you have to do is write a 500 word essay telling us about who inspired you to go to college. Our firm is giving away three prizes to the top submissions! Submit your entry and a photo below for your chance to win!

When I learned that my father died from a rare, but curable, autoimmune disease, I became interested in science. It was hard growing up without a father, and I envied my peers who had the luxury of celebrating Father's Day, while I made a card for my mom, again. I want to make sure no other child feels the pain that I felt.

In seventh grade, I conducted a cell biology lab and extracted the DNA from a strawberry. Fascinated by the linear specimen attached to the tweezers, I delighted in seeing something invisible to the naked eye. Although my classmates dreaded writing the lab report, I enjoyed it, having determined that my future career path would include biology research. Consequently, my academic journey has focused heavily on STEM and biology.

I applied to my town's magnet high school because it offers *Project Lead The Way*, a four-year biomedical science program that includes courses such as Principles of Biomedical Sciences, Human Body Systems, Medical Interventions, and Biomedical Innovations. I have loved studying conceptual physics, chemistry, and biochemistry and look forward to next year's Genes and Disease course. I especially enjoy these topics because I am intrigued by learning about smaller particles that the human eye cannot typically see, such as atoms and cells.

In addition, I have spent my summers working on biomedical projects. During 2021 (online) and 2022 (in-person), I attended Summer at Hopkins and took an Anatomy, Physiology, and Disease class and an Introduction to Laboratory Research class, respectively. During my in-person summer, I particularly enjoyed the experiment where I analyzed the DNA of different vegetables to determine if they were genetically modified. Working in the lab for several hours was difficult, but it was worth it to apply all my academic experience to understand the procedure and conclusion.

This summer, I volunteered at a cardiac imaging clinic where I came to appreciate the effort and skill required to effectively diagnose and treat patients. I look forward to expanding on these experiences, furthering my interest in biomedical science, and possibly finding the cure that saves the life of someone else's father.