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① My personality has been shaped by many things. It has been shaped by the things that I've experienced and the things I've learned. Most importantly, my personality has been shaped by the people around. By my mother's studious, smart, fast-thinking brain. By my father's relentless determination to get ^{what} ~~work~~ what he needs done, by my sister's pride in everything she owns and takes part of, and by my brother's strict outlook on life that began to shape in the military.

For as long as I could remember my mother was always a role model for how I would want to be. Even when there were seven people in a small three bedroom house she proceeded to find the fastest solution to whatever problems we had.

When my mom got pregnant with my brother, she went to college for six months and got the best paying job that she could get.

② My dad never went to college, in fact he dropped out of high school then later got his G.E.D. Like my mother my father never failed to fix a problem we had. Whether the solution was to cover something in duct tape or to repair it completely he always found a way. My father's determination was not one man people have and that's what him amazing.

My sister's pride could extend from the clothes she wears to the smallest, most minute thing in her room. When I was younger my sister would clean the entire house and not need a break ever. My sister has pride in everything she ^{says} does and does.

My brother's heavier outlook on life was molded through out his years in the military. He has taught ^{me} to take things seriously and to hold myself accountable for the things I do. My brother has always held himself at a higher standard and he hopes I do the same.

I have been through a lot of experience that have shaped my personality into what it is today. ~~The~~ Although my personality is most affected by my family and the people who surround me.

LA

Simple objects, such as caramel apples and Mardi gras beads, serve as symbols for the most important moments in my life. It sounds silly but they remind me of my grandparents. I never really got to know them but I have small memories from when I was younger.

Caramel apples remind me of my nanna. Everytime my family came to visit she would make them because she knew they were my favorite sweet at that age. Me and my brother were in charge of dipping the apples and she was in charge of the caramel. We always made everything fresh because they had an apple tree in the backyard. Those days were some of the most memorable in my life.

Mardi gras beads, something no one would guess holds a place in my heart, reminds me of my papou. Yes what we called him sounds strange but when translated it means "father". Every year when Mardi gras came around we would get a new set of beads. To this day I still have every bead I was given. Usually we were given three colors.

Each color had a meaning, and even though
I can't remember what they mean I still
hold them dear to my heart.

I still know that the things I love
the most are strange but they remind
me of the ones that had faith in me
from the day we met.

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In this complex life I live, I seem to play many roles: a therapist, a comedian, and a friend.

In my life I can go from being a normal teenager to being a therapist who graduated from Yale. Many of my family members turn to me to rant about their everyday problems or ask for advice. For example, one day my mother was talking to me about my sister, who was failing her chemistry class. My mother was just going on and on about not knowing how to help her or if she should let my sister figure it out herself. The dilemma was taking a toll on my mother, so I simply told her, "If Lauren (my sister) does not want to try in this class then you can't force her. Trust me mom, it's not anybody's fault but her own". My mother turned to me, looking relieved, and said, "Thank you", then embraced me. However, this is just one of the many times I have played a therapist.

In my life one of the roles I also play is a comedian. I have always tried to make people laugh especially in times of worry. So naturally, when I broke my ankle on Christmas day and had to go into surgery I felt the need to make my family, who was at the hospital, lighten up.

So I hobbled my self to a light switch turned off the light, then turned it back on and exclaimed, "You'll need to lighten up." Although it was an extremely corny joke it had my whole family dying of laughter.

Another role I play in my life is a friend. Whenever I see someone I know is having a bad day I try and help them as much as possible.

For instance, one day in Fifth grade a girl in my grade was sitting under a tree crying. I went up to her and politely asked, "Are you ok?", she shook her head in response then I asked, "Do you want to talk about it?", she answered, "yes." We talked for about thirty minutes, and I found out that her mother had overdosed the night before and that's why she was crying. When we were done talking she told me, "Thank you for being a friend to me, It's been really hard for me I really needed someone to talk to." I told her, "No problem if you ever need to talk to someone I'm here." We later became best friends.

This experience has been ingrained in me and I will always try and befriend anyone who looks in need of a friend.

My thesis Paper

W

I have changed from acting like something im not to being completely myself because of the great friends I made.

I used to pretend that I was a whole different person just to hang out with people that I wanted to be like. I would make similarities with them just to fit in. When I was in 7th grade I even changed my style of music so that I could relate to them, even though it was not my taste. It made me really confused because I didn't understand or find who I really was.

At first, it was unfortunate to loose those friends but I soon realized it was really for the better. I made some new friends that I was comfortable with! And we also had some real things in common that were true about me. I remember them telling me that next year to just forget about it and be happy I made new friends. The hard thing was that I always saw them in the hallway and got the dirtiest looks from them.

Right after I learned just to be myself I saw myself happier. I listened to the kind of music I wanted to and dressed how I

My thesis paper

liked without feeling judged everyday when I came to school in the morning. I am happy that I learned to be confident in my own skin. I then had a new passion that I knew I had all along but didn't show it because it wasn't "cool" enough. That passion was choir and animals. So for a while next year I improved on my voice so much and began to study animals for my career in the future.

I am very thankful for my friends who helped me to understand that it's ok to be yourself and that you don't need to change for anyone but yourself.

Personal Essay

4

"Thud, Thud, Thud," was the only sound I heard as my feet hit the pavement on a blazing summer morning. I churned my feet and swayed my arms as I dashed up my street in a fluid motion. I believe my ability as an athlete comes from hardwork and dedication.

Have you ever wanted to try something new that you knew you weren't very good at? As track season came up in 7th grade for me, I was tempted to try out because many of my peers were trying out. At the very last moment I decided to give it a try and everything just went uphill from there. Everyday I went to long distance and worked my tail off immensely. I ended up going to every track meet and competing at the mile and mile and a half. Even though I only placed 5th and 6th, I was thrilled from being an average athlete at my school to being at the top of the pack. From putting in hardwork everyday, I surpassed the people who were more talented than me during athletics.

Once the summer came around right before 8th grade my school announced that we were going to have a cross country team. All throughout the summer I ran and practiced basketball in order to be a more successful athlete. Once school started with cross country I was the fastest 8th grade girl runner throughout the whole season. At district I placed 5th overall and my team came in 2nd place. My true

Personal Essay

Success came from only one source, my dedication. Putting in endless miles in the summer and running on our days off when I wasn't told to. But my dedication just didn't stop there, the next summer I went to a strength and conditioning camp for two months before cross country. I woke up voluntarily at 6:15 am Monday through Thursday during the summer to go work out. Now that cross country has started I always attend practice at 6 am and put in more work. Currently I am a varsity runner and the second fastest girl. I hope to encourage people that dedication will eventually pass talent up.

As sweat and dirt cover my face I continue to grind through the pain as I cross another finish line. I believe my ability as an athlete solely comes from my hardwork and dedication. Never let someone tell you, you can't achieve something because with the two perfect ingredients of hard work and dedication you make everything achievable.