

Prompt 1- Describe a difficult/ challenging situation you've faced. State the situation, how you responded and why. Would you do anything differently? Did you go to anyone for advice?

I planned on playing varsity lacrosse for the first time junior year-- I was ready to reap the benefits of years of experience. As tryouts approached, my skin emanated pure confidence; I undoubtedly thought I'd be on varsity. The players I grew and excelled with awaited the same outcome. Finally, my name had been called, and the results were unexpected: the coaches determined I wasn't ready for varsity and cut me-- crushing my hopes and dreams. I had a choice to make: I could let that moment define me, or I could make an unforeseen comeback.

From that point on, I would eat, sleep, and breathe lacrosse. In the summer, I woke up at 4:30, went to the gym, and ran. Later, I practiced shooting and agility for another 2 hours. Finally, at night, when I was exhausted, I drove back to the gym for another 2 hours and ran 3 miles. Because of this setback, I am reaping the benefits. I am wiser, stronger, and healthier. Furthermore, this setback has transpired into my future mindset towards life. It has shown me the potential and perseverance I have when I engross myself in whatever I am passionate about.

232 words

Prompt 2- Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.

Most kids in middle school wonder when the new video game was coming out, but I wondered if we would have enough money to buy groceries for the week. Many people believe they understand the hardships of living with such low income; however, the pain can only be experienced first hand by those affected.

There is a difference between living paycheck to paycheck and surviving paycheck to paycheck. Living means you have slightly more than the necessities needed to live; in contrast, surviving is barely reaching those necessities to survive-- my mom and I were in between the two. There were moments in our lives when buying food was a struggle; for months we would rely on food stamps for groceries. Although my mom thought I was too young to remember, I can still envision going to the store and witnessing her embarrassment when she used them. It still haunts me to this day reminiscing about the agony my mom would endure merely to buy simple things people take for granted such as deodorant.

My life living on low income derived from the repercussions of my father leaving us at such an inconvenient time. He left my mom who did not have a job and was taking care of me for the past 3 years. He left us with no money, food, and with a house my mom could not afford. With that being said, from that moment on I knew I had to be the man in my mother's life. While it was her job to take care of me, it was my job to keep her happy and provide her with a purpose to persevere. Whether it be a bill she couldn't pay or a field trip I could not attend, I understood the reasons why and would support her through it all.

Living in such an environment shaped me into who I am today. While I am more than grateful for where I am now, I still empathize for families who experience the life I once had.

Rather than make fun of a kid who sits alone or can't afford school lunches, I have compassion for them because I know first hand the amount of stress and embarrassment he faces at home. I have the utmost respect for the parents who struggle to care for their kids because they are the ones who have shown me the lengths they will go to provide for them. They have taught me how to overcome adversity in society and exhaust your efforts into the things or people you care about most.

Furthermore, this setback has inspired my future in helping others. Living in poor conditions has motivated me more to pursue business and other ventures so that I can have the availability to create an impact towards struggling families. I want to be able to have the funds and create foundations that can help these families to progress away from working to survive, allowing them the chance to thrive. This misfortune has inclined me to make certain, with the foundation I intend to create, that no kid will have to face the embarrassment of not being able to eat lunch with their friends and can enjoy the early life of being a kid.

543 words