

Jiffy Lube Scholarship Essay
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What Drives Me

I've learned that a want becomes a wish when the need for the want becomes apparent. College became a wish for me once I realized the true impact it would have on my life. No longer did I care that I'd be "stuck in school" for an extra four years, nor did I care that I'd have to move away from those who love me most. I have always *wanted* to go to college and get a higher education; but now it is my *wish*.

I grew up in what others may call a "troubled home." I had a father who turned the roof of our house into dust and dug a hole for my family that we have yet to come out from. From that, I always saw my mother as a hero. Seeing her survive through what she has with four children at her feet gave me a perspective that I am thankful for. Now, the man who has dug a hole in our lives and hearts has metal bars to show for it; what we have to show is nothing. We have nothing but a worn-down apartment to show the illusion that we have never tried to succeed.

I want to have something to show for my family and my future. So far- I have succeeded in that. With my creative mind and passion for arts, I *have* started my future. From helping lead clubs at my school, to being Head Editor of the yearbook- as well as taking leadership positions in band and Theater- I make my commitment known to the programs I place myself in. Outside of school, I have had the opportunity to ambassador for a brand by taking photos of their products and even being a counselor and/or on the staff at my church camp for 5 years now. I've even started my own personal investments like starting my own photography business and have had 7 successful photoshoots, and double that in the process of planning.

I get to dig myself out of the hole I grew up in. As I transition into adulthood, no longer do I get to use broken relationships, scary nights and homelessness as an excuse not to grow. It's a perspective builder. Some nights, when my family was struggling and we had no home, we would walk along busy streets to find change hopefully adding up to be enough to buy a small soda at the gas station. One day, we found 110 cents! That was the peak of our day, to get away from our dad and leave him in the beat down motel that overcharged us and go for a walk with hopes to share a refreshing drink in the end. While I do see my mother as a hero for keeping us smiling through the depths, I have also learned that everyone has their flaws. Dave Ramsey was one of the many people who helped me realize this. After reading his book *The Total Money Makeover*, I have seen the flaws in the way I grew up living financially and am learning what to do in my future. From now forward is my chance to save myself.

This is why college is now my wish. I wish to receive an education in graphic design to build my skills and have something to show for my hard work. I wish to experience independence in a way that helps me to grow towards adulthood. I wish to experience a career that I can set myself up for success financially, and all of which I can find with higher education and a degree.

Although it is my wish- I am not just a wisher nor a dreamer; so here I am refilling the hole and letting God, education and grit build me a mountain.