

Symphony Simmons
Grade 12
Thomas A. Edison Preparatory School
Tulsa, Oklahoma

What Drives You?

My name is Symphony Simmons from Tulsa, Ok, and I am a senior at Thomas Edison Preparatory school. I had several ideas about this topic, and it's hard to pick just one, so I have several! I would say what drives me right now, is my future, and my school. I'm fired up about my future in a way unlike other kids my age, I have huge goals and dreams that I am more than determined to make happen. I think about my future daily and I actively take steps to fulfill everything that I want. I am going to the University of Oklahoma this fall and I couldn't be more excited, not only will I be the first in my family to receive a degree, but I also hope to be the first to break the poverty line in my family. In my future, I see myself continuing my education much further than an undergraduate degree, I plan on majoring in law, criminology, education, or business, so I will be attending law or business school after undergraduate, or at least graduate school. I plan on attending the International Language Program (ILP)'s Montenegro program after college, an exchange program that isn't affiliated with any university or school, but simply taken out of your own time to move to a country for 4 months and teach small kids English. I apologize for how 'all over the place' this essay has been, I just get so excited thinking about my future and all the reasons I want to keep pushing forward! The second driving factor for me is my school, student government and leadership development has been a huge part of my life and personality since I got to Edison in 2014. Throughout highschool I have served on several boards as an officer including Key Club, Red Cross, and Class board, I have been a part of the National Honors Society all four years of high school, as well as student council, and this year I serve as

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student council president and get to be in charge of 1,117 kids. I have been given the opportunity to represent my school and my council at every district 7 convention I've attended each year, student council state 2 times, national honor society conventions, etc. The most rewarding thing to me after spending 4 years in Edisons' leadership development program and being active in student government was receiving the invitation to join the President's Leadership Class at the University of Oklahoma. Over 1250 incoming freshmen apply and 125 are accepted. I cannot describe how passionate I am about continuing my education and breaking the chain in my family! Thank you for reading!