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Year 12

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I am driven by helping people in my community. I have many skills that allow me to do this: my primary gift is that I speak both English and Spanish fluently, without an accent. This is because I was born in 2004 in Guadalajara, Mexico to Mexican parents, and we moved to the US in 2005. There are many places where I get to use my bilingual skills in my community.

First, in my school, I volunteer at our student-run language center, aiding students further develop their academic Spanish skills. I'm involved in other communities as well: I directly help people as an interpreter. A recent example involves a teammate from my swim team. He is originally from Columbia and moved to the US for his education. The fact that he is Columbian provides the interesting challenge of "slang barriers." Much like how my native vocabulary was hard to understand for my peers trained in formal Spanish, it is also hard for me to understand his Columbian Spanish; not only was it much faster, but the stresses on syllables, combined with Columbia-specific words really helped me empathize with how non-native speakers feel.

My drive to help people also extends to my future career goals. I am planning on majoring in Biomedical Engineering at the University of Utah. The reason I chose this major is because it combines my interests in both biology and engineering, but also because I get to expand who I can help, and work in a more direct way. A Biomedical Engineer has many opportunities and responsibilities: some work in laboratories developing treatments to help the sick, some create and test new medical devices to assist doctors and surgeons when conducting operations and some make cutting-edge prosthetics to aid those who have lost limbs or even organs. While I still don't know fully which facet of Biomed I will choose, I know that it will be exciting and will help many people. I understand that this major will be extremely difficult, but I am driven to achieve success in this, not just for myself, but for the

people who I will be able to aid.

I am also driven to push myself to my furthest extent. I do this by doing my best in any sport I attempt, and by always doing the best work that I can produce in school, especially in projects involving hands-on assignments. This is also part of my own personal projects: while I don't push myself to perfection, I am driven to do the best work that I can, while having fun.

Overall I am driven by two things: helping those around me, and helping myself be the best version of me that I can be.