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Jiffy Lube Scholarship Essay: "What Drives Me?"

It's become a societal norm to start asking kids what they want to be when they grow up. It starts bubbling dreams and aspirations in their minds. However, I never knew my answer to that question until rather recently. If I had been asked at the beginning of the school year, "Molly, what do you want to do with your life?" I would have just shrugged without a clue. Spending an entire year online for school and isolated from others took away a lot of experiences to try new things. I struggled to come up with potential career paths that I would enjoy and thrive in. As forecasting began, classes were sort of a mystery, not knowing really what each class truly entailed. I gathered some courage and decided to take Intro to Publications: Journalism as an elective.

In our first class of the year, we immediately held our first pitching meeting. We were blurting out important things happening around the school. I chose to write about the free menstrual products recently added to the school's bathrooms for my first article.

I started gathering people for interviews, researching different legislative bills, and not too long after I began writing, my first article was done and posted online.

I continued to write more small articles for the online newspaper, thspublications.com, for the next few months when the biggest story of the year happened; a massive, student-organized, protest against hate speech in the community.

For two hours I was running around and interviewing people. Our editor-in-chief, Abbigale Elliott, then asked if I would write about the protest with her. I immediately jumped on the opportunity.

This was the moment I realized, "maybe I could do this as a job in the future."

Interviewing, researching, writing, and editing the story just made me fall in love with journalism more.

Finally, the article was done and published. Later, going through social media, all I saw were reposts of the article from both adults and students.

Seeing so many people being impacted by something I helped create really solidified within me that this is what I want to do with my life. I want to make an impact on people with my writing and go beyond the definition of journalism.

The following week, I received a message from Abbigale that read, “we got best of show!”

Our piece had been accepted as one of the best articles from thousands of schools by Student News Online and I was ecstatic. That award opened my eyes to the massive world of journalism. The ability to impact so many people, in my community and across the nation helped me find my answer to the question, “What do you want to do with your life?”

When I grow up I want to make an impact on people’s lives through journalism and the money from the “What Drives You?” scholarship would help me financially with attending college and earning my degree in journalism to continue doing what I love.