



Write to Educate

Scholarship Contest Winner

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Essay Topic: Describe how you have demonstrated leadership ability in and out of school and how do you plan to grow as a leader in the future.

“Leaders aren’t born, they are made; and they are made just like anything else, through hard work. That’s the price we have to pay to achieve that goal or any goal.” - Vince Lombardi.

When I look back on my senior year, I am very proud of my accomplishments; not only with my school work, but also the school and community activities I participated in. In most of these activities I have taken on a leadership role, sometimes a small role, other times the lead role. I have learned so much about leadership from each of these roles and from my teachers.

I was voted the student council president during my senior year by my fellow students who trusted me to be the leader and aim the group and the work it does for the school in the right direction. While in charge, the group has accomplished great projects, including a “Coaches VS Cancer” fundraiser after a Laingsburg graduate lost a 5 year battle with cancer. With the help of the school’s basketball program, we raised over \$15,000 to present to the family. We also help organize homecoming, the winter dance and many other events. Being the president means that I am in charge of making sure all of these events run smoothly, with help from my fellow students.

I was also given the privilege of serving as my high school’s yearbook editor and chief. I am in charge of a staff of students to design and edit a project that is eventually presented, not only to students, but to the Laingsburg community. My position requires helping my fellow students with their spreads, stories and captions. This leadership position has required many hours spent after school in our publications room. In addition, being editor and chief required a supervisory role over the students to ensure that their stories were reviewed, edited and completed on time. This was a new experience for me and I felt like I really grew a lot as a leader and developed new skills that I will use in the future. I also met with my school principal several times to suggest different ideas for improving the class.

Along with those leadership roles, I am involved with a group of students that are in charge of filming and directing the senior video that is presented to the community at the graduation ceremony. This project requires a lot of planning and organization of students, dates, and equipment, along with the three parts to the video. We are featuring as many students as possible, which requires a lot of coordination between the teams/clubs and the members of our group and grade.

At my previous place of work, Kohl’s, I was trusted to train the new employees while working and helping customers. I believe this was an important leadership position because the cashiers are the first employees to greet customers at the door and are the last to be seen as customers leave.

My family has always been very involved in Special Olympics, volunteering at tournaments and helping in any way possible. We got involved because my uncle participated in swimming, bowling and volleyball. This past summer, he passed away from cancer, but my family and I have tried to stay as involved as we can. For two years, I have coordinated students to help volunteer at the annual basketball tournament. Organizing the students was an important leadership role to me because I had to make sure that the students knew their jobs, the times, as well as select students who I thought would interact well with the athletes of Special Olympics.

I’m excited for college and all the opportunities I will have to expand my leadership activities and skills. Lansing Community College has a Student Leadership Academy that I am interested in. I also plan to expand my role with Special Olympics. I would like to be more involved in organizing events, fundraising and possibly assisting with coaching some of the activities.

