

Laura Lalla

ENG 1101

Unit 1: Education Narrative Essay

Word Count: 1047

10/18/2022

A Stepping Stone to Success

The earliest memory I have of being at the dentist is when I was nine years old and saw my older sister bite the dentist as she yelled and screamed while struggling to fight off my mom in the process of trying to hold her down. It was a sight to behold. I never understood why my sister was so afraid of the dentist and why this always happened when we had an appointment. At a young age, I was always fascinated by the equipment/tools that they used and wondered why they needed to use them. From then on, that's when I realized I wanted to go into the dental field.

Each year in school, we would be asked the same question "What do you want to be when you grow up?". My answer has always been a dentist since the 4th grade, and I knew I wanted to impact people's lives and help them in any way I could. Growing up with four older siblings, they have shown me kindness, support, encouragement, and self-confidence, which I want to give in return to someone else who needs it. I've always looked up to my older siblings and have wanted to follow in their footsteps. As she got older, I saw my sister get motivated about wanting to participate in the medical field, which has always reflected on me. Throughout my life, I was unsure what type of dentist I wanted to be until my freshman year. That's when I set my goal of becoming a dental hygienist. I wanted to become a dental hygienist because they specialize in polishing and scaling teeth and providing and educating patients on oral care. Also,

it helps create healthier lives for people and being able to make a change in the world. There is no better feeling than knowing you are making a difference in this world. Since I knew I wanted to join the medical field, I entered the medical assisting program in high school to better understand the level of coursework and the type of environment I would be set up for.

Being part of the medical assisting program gave me a sense of purpose and a feeling of belonging. Sitting in those classes for three years helped shape me into the person I am today, and it helped build on my time management skills, communication skills, problem-solving skills, and adaptability. I couldn't be happier knowing what it's like to be in the medical field. Each day made it more apparent that I still wanted to be a dental hygienist. Making a positive impact on someone else's life is rewarding. My parents and siblings have always been supportive and understanding of my choice. It's always been my dream to be part of the dental field and to progress further. Trying to figure out what I wanted to be was never a problem because I always knew in my heart what I wanted for my future. It was always the process of how and when it would start for me. Becoming a certified clinical medical assistant made my passion for dentistry stronger because I knew it would all be worth fighting for in the end.

After school and during the summer, I would join programs that would help me get more involved in the medical field as much as possible. Some programs I did not get into because I didn't meet the criteria, but that motivated me to work harder and keep moving forward. However, I did get into Futures and Options, where they help formulate your working skills and health dynamics. I've had mentors along the way that helped me create my education pathway and how to get more active in assisting and educating the community—participating in this program significantly prepared me for working, how to be professional, and what to expect in a work environment. I worked at Mount Sinai Beth Israel, and I got to experience what the medical

field looks like. I got to work with patients and health care workers to see their day-to-day life. I was educated on how health care workers got to operate procedures and approach patients. Mount Sinai allowed me to see things more clearly and build skills like empathy and compassion.

Throughout the years, I have been creating memories and building relationships with people that have gotten me to where I am now. They have my gratitude for their unconditional support and love. I want to become a dental hygienist because there's nothing better than helping people have healthier lives and providing service to others. This profession is very thrilling to me; every day would be completely different, and you would never know what to expect. I would also get the opportunity to learn something new every day. No matter how difficult this job will bring, I know it's something to be proud of. Knowing that I am getting closer to my goal makes me feel driven that my dream will come true and that all my hard work will pay off.

Becoming a dental hygienist is my ultimate goal, and being able to pursue that dream couldn't make me happier. The late nights studying and doing my homework will finally help me succeed in getting my dream job. Even through the tough times, I know I can accomplish anything as long as I put my mind to it. Anyone can, as long as they are passionate about it and are driven to put in hard work and dedication. Everyone wants to have a career that they are happy with, and being able to wake up in the morning to do something you enjoy doing is rewarding. Life comes with unexpected things, and we should take every opportunity to get the dream we want and work for it as much as possible. Since I was little, I have wanted to be in the dental field and have stayed committed. Picturing a future you want for yourself will only keep you driven and motivated until it becomes a reality. Someone should never give up on something

that they want, and don't settle for anything less than what you want. Wanting to become a dental hygienist has been a demand in my book, and I won't stop until I reach there.