

Essay – My Accomplishments

My parents always tell me how proud they are of me and all I've accomplished in my life at such a young age. I've always been known as the "responsible one", or the "smart one" out of all my friends. I've always been the one to remind my friends about tests or reports that are due, and they always ask what they would do without me.

I've been in choir ever since I was in 7th grade, and I made it up to the acapella choir, which is pretty much the highest choir you can join. We traveled to compete and have won many awards. My junior year of high school I did volunteer work at an assisted living facility where I called Bingo, I did that for about three months. I tried to continue to do that after I got my first job but the two couldn't work around each other's schedules. I got my first job as soon as I turned 16. I got hired the same day I turned in my application. I have now worked at Wendy's for almost two years, and am now studying to be a crew leader, which is right under a manager position. I have stayed at Wendy's so long because they work around my busy schedule, and now I know everyone so well that they are all like family.

In my junior year of high school, I did a scholarship program called Junior Miss where we practiced for about five months. We did fashion shows to raise money. We competed in events such as: talent, poise, fitness, and academics. This allowed me to explore myself and make new friends, it also helped build my self-esteem.

My grandma is my role model because she has accomplished so much and has been through so much in her life. She is a very beautiful person, but very stubborn in what she believes and wants. It's almost impossible to get her to change her mind. She is always telling me how proud she is of me and has pretty high expectations of me. My mom is also a role model for me because she had a rough childhood, and after she started a family, she went back to college. She is still attending college now. She gives me motivation to never give up, and she reminds me of how good my life is.

I've accomplished a bit in my life and plan to accomplish a lot more. I want to follow in my grandmother and mother's footsteps. My life is going on the right track and I'm the only one that can keep it that way.

For Discussion or Writing

1. What are the advantages of being an active HS student, having school activities in addition to classes? Name/list some activities that students can participate in at this school. Underline all the activities named in the essay.
2. The student in this essay began working at 16 at a paid job. What are the advantages of working at a job when you're in HS? What are the disadvantages? Set up a paper with two columns: Advantages of working in HS and Disadvantages of working in HS. Now fill it in with your thoughts.
3. What are role models? How can they influence your life? Who were the role models in the life of this student in the essay? Circle their attributes and their actions that made them role models. Who in your life is, or could be, a role model for you? Name the person with a first name, and then list their attributes that you believe are important for you.
4. The final comment by the student in the last paragraph tells us something about her values and her character. Re-read the last paragraph carefully, then describe what you see as her traits, or attributes. How would you rate her self-esteem? How important is self-esteem? Do you have any of those attributes? Would you like to? How would you build a positive attribute, like she has?

Adapted from NPR Series, This I Believe