

One day in first grade the teacher allowed the class to have free time. Some students read books; others colored, and the rest played games. However I picked up a piece of paper, a pencil and started scribbling down words. When I was finished, I read what I wrote, and smiled to myself. It was the day I had written my first poem and discovered my love for writing. From then on, every time I had the chance I would write, whether it is a poem, or a journal entry.

Growing up I was shy and quiet, but writing gave me the space to be as loud and vocal as I wanted. As I got older, I was able to develop my writing skills and ability to communicate in more metaphorical and deeper ways. It also helped me to see and understand things beyond the surface.

Which is why I want to become a journalist, to continue to have writing part of my life and make a career out of it. I plan to use college as a stepping stone to hone my writing skills while continuing my education. I want to get involved in as many campus activities as possible so to mature my social skills. I will also like to take part in internships so I can get a first hand view in the world of journalism.

I have been part of various organizations that works within different communities. One program that I am especially proud to have been part of is Coro Exploring Leadership. During the summer, we learned about the NYC education system through topics such as funding and school safety. During the school year, me and fellow participants from school worked to make a positive change at our school. Together, we were able to establish a Student Voice Committee. The purpose of the committee is to address the needs and wants of the students. We wanted to give students the feeling of having power over their education and an avenue to vocalize their opinions. Before the

project, it felt like students will complain but not do anything about it. The project made students more willing to take action and feel that their voice will actually be heard.

It was also through this program that I started to view myself as a leader. A leader is not just the person that is in charge or the person that is more vocal. A leader is also the person that is willing to listen to the idea of others, help those who need it and ask for help when s/he needs it. And this is the kind of leader I am. \

Being awarded this scholarship will give me the extra assistance I need to continue down the path towards my goals of completing college and becoming a journalist. The scholarship will help decrease the worries of paying or buying supplies for college so that I will be able to concentrate more on performing my best at college.