

A Quote for My Life

As John F. Kennedy said, "every accomplishment starts with the decision to try (*President Kennedy Speech: 1961 inaugural address*)." I am blessed to have a supportive family and be surrounded by encouraging individuals that push me to try my hardest. If I had not decided to try I would not have the life I have today. I would not have the friendships, athletic accolades, and courage to apply to the Germanna Scholars program.

Throughout life I have had the opportunity to make lifelong friendships by competing in cheerleading. When I was a child, my mom wanted me to try something new. She finally convinced me to try cheer at the age of four. It was not my favorite sport and I can remember crying not wanting to go back. All of this changed when I competed in my first competition. Our team won first place and I remember the feeling of all my hard work coming together to win. Not only to win for myself but also for my team.

I have been a part of many teams throughout my life and they are all extremely important to me. My previous and current team members have encouraged me to keep trying and to become a better cheerleader and person all around. Through the wins and the losses, there is no "I" in team. Each person must work extremely hard and give their absolute best because during competition it comes down to three minutes in front of a panel of judges. The environment that cheerleading has created allows me to be myself, be a part of a group of positivity, and engage in competition in order to grow.

Cheerleading is something that I am very proud to say I have excelled at. I have worked very hard and tried a lot of new things. In fact, this year I completed a new level five tumbling skill called a "full". This skill is one that has been daunting and not everyone on the team can complete. This skill includes two back handsprings leading into a back flip with a twist, landing flat on both feet. Each time I would attempt this skill and fail it was easy to become discouraged and want to give up. With the help of my teammates, my family, and my determination, I never gave up and finally did it.

Cheerleading takes up a lot of my time therefore I have had to learn how to manage my time wisely. We practice three days a week and compete most weekends so it is very important to make time for school. I have to have balance because school always comes first. Cheerleading may be one of my passions but my desire to do well in school will take me to the places in life I want to go.

Academically, I have also excelled. I have been awarded for my grades through the AB honor roll. I chose to complete an advanced diploma to graduate from high school. An advanced diploma means I have to take credits in a foreign language. I enrolled in Spanish and that was something that I had to try very hard to complete. I struggled at first but as the class went on, I figured out the best way for me to learn and succeed. There have been multiple times in my academic career where I have had to set my mind to complete something. Enrolling in Spanish was one of those times.

When the opportunity to apply for the Germanna Scholars was brought to my attention, I knew immediately that this program was definitely one for me to apply for. I know through extremely hard work and perseverance this program will give an extra edge to my portfolio as well as help to ensure I am a competitive applicant to the colleges I choose to apply. With AB

honor roll, the advanced diploma, and hopefully the Germanna Scholars program listed on my applications I will be able to fulfill my dream of going to Clemson or Coastal Carolina.

I made the decision to hold my cheer family close. I made the decision to continue cheer and complete things I never thought I could. I made the decision to put academics above all else to make my future a reality. I would not be where I am today without the ultimate decision, to try.

Works Cited

"President Kennedy Speech: 1961 Inaugural Address." English Speeches, 17 Mar. 2020,