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Personal Statements

Prompt #1

Every year there always seems to be a group project, and I have always despised them--especially the acting ones. I'm usually the quiet one in the group who has the smallest role. But last year was different because I wasn't the only mouse. Not only that, but our director wasn't present during any rehearsals. Overall, we had poor acting skills, stage fright, and absolutely zero motivation.

At first I was very hesitant about filling in this leadership void. I felt that I had no right to tell anyone what to do because I was not the director. But eventually I decided to take control of the project. I wanted to break out of my shell and do something about that disaster of a play because no one was willing to take the initiative. Everyone just wanted to remain as shadows. I've been doing that for years and I was sick of it. I was determined to lead them and rip off their shells like the clams they are. Our lackluster performances were driving me crazy. I was going to push everyone to their limits. I wanted us to all be proud of our performances and stop holding back all the time. I needed to show them that we were all capable of something much better.

I began telling my teammates what needed to be improved, what they should change and gave lots of constructive criticism. I made sure that everyone was comfortable with the acting. I really wanted to do well because every time there was an audience involved, I just tended to blend in with the background, hoping that no one would notice me.

Even though I had a lot of determination for our success, I sometimes struggled to be a "perfect" leader. It was my first time being one; I didn't want to let anyone down. My ultimate goal was to just help everyone break out of their shells including myself. That's all I wanted and that's what I managed to accomplish. We were all able to gain the confidence that we all needed.

Prompt #7

Throughout the years, I began to notice that volunteering was becoming a chore. Everyone does it and mostly for the same reason, college applications. I felt that I was wasting my time because I wasn't contributing enough. I didn't want to be like everyone else and mindlessly volunteer for only one time events. I wanted to use my time for more and important things. I wanted to be useful.

Therefore I decided to find something productive to do last summer. I managed to get my first internship at a kid's camp as a junior counselor. The job was harder than I thought. I learned that children don't understand the basic rights and wrongs that I see as common sense. I remember a group of boys were calling another boy an idiot. They all laughed at him. When I tried to correct them, they told me that they weren't being mean because the boy that they called an idiot was laughing along. The only reason he was laughing along was because he didn't understand what that word meant. Therefore those boys took that as an okay to call others names. It made me really sad and angry. That behavior was just unacceptable to me. I made sure I corrected them after.

After that I continued to teach my campers as many life lessons as possible. Whatever I saw that was wrong I would correct. We the counselors were basically their seconds parents. We were responsible for taking care of them and bringing them up as good people. My boss always reminded us that the kids see us as role models. Whatever we did would have an impact on them. I wanted to leave a positive memory in their childhood. I wanted them to all grow up as wonderful people.

My job might not have seemed important but it was to me. It was to make sure that my campers learned from this experience. Childhood is an important time for everyone. It shapes who we are today. And the best way to improve society is by starting with the new generation.

Prompt 6#

Before the first day of school I was already told numerous times that I should change my class and get an easier teacher. The subject had such a negative stigma. But those comments actually made me really want to succeed. I wanted to be the person that everyone asks for help. However those thoughts had me sitting on a high horse. And my first test knocked me off of it. I completely bombed it. It felt like someone uppercut my face. I just didn't understand how I could have failed when I tried my best.

That test gave me the impression that I would fail the class and do poorly in high school. I realized that I was focusing too much on the grade. My teacher told me that I wasn't doing anything with the information I was receiving. It wasn't about how much you know but what you do with what you know. I never thought about why something was important. I never questioned anything. You can say that all living things are made out of cells, but who cares. That was the crucial question that I was ignoring. I was one of those students that would only listen, never to think. I had to take a different approach towards my learning and that's what I did.

The moment I began opening my mind, everything changed. I began asking more questions. I would never leave my teachers alone until I understood what I did wrong. I made sure I learned from all my mistakes. By doing so I felt that I was able to truly learn the subject. It felt relatable unlike others. I was basically learning about myself and I wanted to learn more.

If I never had this class I would have never been the student I am today. This class helped initiate my drive for learning. It made me a great student and gave me a subject to love and thrive in. I was able to enhance my way of thinking and learning. This class started it all. Biology has shaped the way I think.

Prompt #8

I don't always see eye to eye with others. I've never been a conventional thinker, it's something that I noticed at a young age. Growing up, I would question a lot of the behavior that I saw. Everyone would always agree with each other. It was always a domino effect of kids saying "me too" and being so happy about it. There was so much conformity even in just primary school. I didn't know what conformity was at that age but I knew I didn't like it.

I noticed at a young age that kids are already thinking that they need to act, think and look a certain way in order for people to like them and to fit in. Most people only care about the trivial things in life. Everyone keeps following these standards: standards that I played along with because I was scared to express my own opinions. I only stopped pretending once I started high school because I finally found the reason to why I could never always agree with everyone else.

I finally realized that society has been shaping the way people act and think, and I managed to avoid all of that. I've always been deviating from the norm. My mind has always been independent even when I was child. I never gave in to the conventional wisdom. I'm not the type of person who agrees just because everyone else does.

I'm able to bring a different point of view to the table. My thoughts aren't muddled by the context of other people's lives. Some people are stuck in the light, only seeing what society shows. While I'm in the dark and able to see my own point of view. Sometimes people need to be in the dark in order to be away from society so that they can truly develop their own thoughts and opinions. I have always had to ability to see things differently from others. I never listen to what society tells me to do. I don't give in to the pressure like others. I have my own true independent mind.