

Sample College Essay One

Prompt - Explain a situation that turned into a defining moment for you. Explain how you will use this to further your path in life.

"If I cooked you, I'd be able to survive on your meat for over a month." This was not the welcome I had expected on my first day at the British School in Phuket, Thailand. I wondered if my fellow students here would be as kind as they were in America or would they be rude and brash, as this insult implied? Would the curriculum be an academic challenge or an intellectual breeze? I had no idea what to expect.

At ten years old, I was 4'11" and weighed 185 pounds. As Dreem (this was his name) spoke his offensive words, he smirked. Almost instinctively, something snapped inside me and, although aggressiveness is not one of my traits, I rushed him and knocked him to the floor. I think he got my point.

Dreem did not look like other Thai kids. While he appeared to be Caucasian, his insult implied that English was not his first language. However, with his lightly colored skin and golden blonde curls, he certainly didn't look Thai. As October arrived, Dreem's various traits began to intrigue me and I wanted to know more about him. Whether he was eating by himself in the boisterous refectory or sitting in the corner of the library silently doing work, he was always alone. I assumed he didn't have many friends because of his personality, but I decided to give him a second chance.

One particularly humid day, I approached him, choosing to ignore the possibility of harassment. He was sitting under a sala (a type of Thai hut), fiddling with a cell phone, when I interrupted him. That first chat was brief, but it planted the seeds for our budding friendship. We then sat next to each other in classes, ate lunch together in the refectory, and did homework together. We had become good friends. From bowling to jet skiing, we did it all together and were inseparable, quite a turnaround from that first assault on my weight.

After a year in Thailand, my family moved back to the U.S. I kept in touch with Dreem by weekly emails and occasionally caught him online with MSN Messenger. Dreem lived on Patong Beach, one of the hardest hit areas of the tragic 2004 tsunami. He didn't survive. His house was flattened. I was crushed. I had never lost somebody that close to me.

Dreem's death dramatically changed my life. I began thinking that life was too short and it would be a waste to do things I didn't really want to do. Before Dreem, I never really devoted myself to working hard, but since his passing I now focus on what's important and I hate leaving work unfinished. I want to be successful, not only for myself but also for Dreem. After I reflected on what happened to him, I realized that he never had the chance to do what he wanted in his life—to live and just "be."

His memory burns within me and fuels my passion for life. My once short, stout frame has now grown to six feet tall and my then 185 pounds are now 170. I often wonder what Dreem would be like today. Where would he be? What would he look like? What would he be doing? I'll never know these answers, but I'll also never forget my friend whose name defines my approach to life.

Sample

Activities and Leadership Roles

Leadership & Volunteer Opportunities

Village Greeter at Dialysis Clinic in Batavia - 2016 - Current

Help to direct and greet patients and families visiting the clinic

Worked with nurses and other hospital personnel

Assist patients with getting settled for treatments

Assist with maintaining clinic stock and provisions for patients

Teens Against Bullying leader- 2013-2014

Assisted teachers in providing advice for Middle School students

Raised awareness about different types of bullying

Student Council - 2012 - Current

Participated in fundraising, student lead events and community outreach

Service Work in Atlanta - 2012 | 2013

Week long event - served at risk/ underserved populations in Atlanta (homeless adults and youth)

Worked with families to provide them with basic needs and support

Prom Committee - 2015

Organized and planned for Prom

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America - 2012

Fundraising in order to give to Veterans Home in Georgetown, Ohio

Provided dinners for community and school leaders

Activities

Volleyball - 4th Grade - Current

School Volleyball - Williamsburg

Church League

Club Volleyball - Cincy East and Arsenal (7 years total)

Other

McDonald's Employee - April 2015 - Current

CPR Certification