

I have always assumed that colleges were looking for a life tragedy - that they felt that college was more important for people who have struggled than for others who had it a little easier. I used to think that your tragedy is your story, and your story is what gives you an identity, but I realize now that is not the case, so I'm going to write about why I use my blessings and my passions as the driving force for my life. My blessings are my story.

If I'm being completely honest, I wouldn't say that I've really endured true pain yet. I've never lost anyone close to me, I've always been healthy, and for the most part, I've had a healthy family life. For most of my life, I've had colossal money struggles which have molded my mentality in ways I sometimes wish I could change. For several years, my family did not even have a home of its own, having to live with many different families. However, my financial struggle has offered me a painfully relatable experience, so it has strengthened my ability to empathize with others. In a way, this experience of never having quite enough money has also deeply humbled me, and for that reason, I consider it a blessing.

I grew up in Jackson, Mississippi with four siblings, so everything was always stretched among the five of us. I was raised knowing how to appreciate the smaller things in life because I never really had much bigger than that, but I have always put others before me when I could because their happiness made me happier than my own. My desire to always make sure everyone around me is content is one of my biggest character strengths, and I manifest that through my daily actions and my aspirations, which include becoming a pediatrician and/or an elementary school teacher. I believe the impact I could make will be the most rewarding aspect of both fields.

Life has given me its share of struggle, but I don't let it define me. I've always been a firm believer that if you have a dead weight, let it go. I don't use my life's burdens as my only reason to work harder. I don't want to allow myself to identify with any negativity I've encountered because that is not who I am. Instead, my passion for what and who I love gives me my purpose in the world. My devotion to changing children's lives through strong educational programming and good health care pushes me every day to be my best. My passion is my identity.

I honestly can't even choose between becoming a full time teacher or a pediatrician because I feel like both education and health care are essential parts of any successful childhood, so I am going to strive to explore both fields. When I'm working with children, I'm excited by the hope I have for them and their potential to do marvelous things. Education is power, and whether I become a doctor or a teacher, I am going to be someone who pours that passion for education into the youth so that they strive to do the same. These career fields assure me positivity and challenge, and they give me the opportunity to grow with the children as well. I want to use my health, my education, and my experience as a light for future generations.

So as I move forward, I will continue to work toward my purpose in life - giving back. I was not given the perfect life, but I was given much more to be thankful for than others, so I use that to make life its best for those in need. I don't work hard only for my own success, but my motivation comes from helping others around me to succeed. If I can contribute to anyone's well-being, then that is what will continue to inspire me. I am my passion.