

Personal Profile

Complete the statements below to help me write your college letter of recommendation.

Name: *Elan Zora*

1. The three qualities you like best about yourself are...

One of my most valued qualities that have influenced the person I am today is my relentless effort and unyielding determination. The second quality that I like best about myself is my desire of success as a student and a young adult. My third characteristic that I am most proud of is my inseverable dedication to helping others around me, and putting others needs before mine. These three qualities have been established early on in my life, and will continue to dwell in me through the subsequent years as a student, child, and citizen.

2. The accomplishments you are most proud of are...

One of the most pleasing accomplishments in my life has been watching my younger brother grow into the child I am proud of. While my parents moved to America in their early adulthood, their customs have been altered from their previous ways of doing things, back in Iraq. Raising a child is not an easy thing to do in American society. While both of my parents work to support the family, and both of my sisters are focused on their upcoming careers, it has been my job to take responsibility for my nine year old brother, Landen. Through restless hours of teaching him basic principles of math and reading, to the efforts to settle his everyday problems as a child, Landen has grown up to be one of the smartest kids I have seen. While one of my main priorities is the well-being of others, I will continue to lead Landen on the right path and to influence him to become a better person than I am today.

3. The outside of school activity that has been most rewarding for you is....because....

The outside of school activity that has been most rewarding for me is volunteering as a teacher and an aid for children's communion classes at my local church. This volunteer experience gives me a great opportunity to give back to the church, the children, and the community. Also, because of the volunteering experience, I have attained a wide-set range of skills that I did not have before, such as work experience with children, and the ability to teach in front of an audience.

4. What is your greatest area of weakness, and why?

My greatest area of weakness is balancing a healthy social life, commitment to staying active, and a prudent focus on education. Time is the hardest thing to manage as a teenager who is getting ready for college. While my main focus at this moment is to get accepted into the colleges of my choice, school and academics have encompassed most nearly all of my time. Because of my involvement in rigorous courses, I feel obligated to find time to focus on school, to get in a daily span of exercise, and to stay connected to my friends. While all three things are what matter most to me at this moment, I am hoping that I learn to balance my time and to deal with my problems more efficiently, through the correct college experience in my later years of early adulthood.

5. Are there any "extenuating circumstances" that I should include in the recommendation? For example: difficult adjustment to high school; family structure change; illness or other personal issues, etc.

For the most part, try to call attention to the fact that I am a boy like any other, trying to make my mark in the world, and stay committed to the well-being of others around me.

My parents moved from Baghdad, Iraq, to the United States when they were almost 18 years of age, seeking opportunity in America. My parents were victims of extreme poverty as well as religious persecution back in Iraq. Once they moved to the U.S, getting accustomed to American culture was a challenge, especially as two refugees looking for a better life. Raising four children was a challenge, as my parents were not fully assimilated to American culture when they had my oldest sister, Natalia. While my parents have the disadvantage of not being educated as adequately as people in America, my parents made the best of things, and have established a life for me that I would not trade for the world.

6. Right now, what are your top priorities?

Right now, my top priorities are to stay focused on school and get into the colleges of my desire (SDSU, UCSD, USD). All other things come secondary to me. Getting into the right college will impact what man I will become in the future.

7. What statement summarizes your personal philosophy of life?

“The moment you stop trying to become a better person, is the moment you start to become worse than what you already are.” -Carroll Bryant

This quote is special to me because I believe that the whole purpose in life is to make your mark on the world, by being a good person, and putting others needs before your own. No matter how hard life may seem at the moment, being a better person will make everything in your life come much easier.

8. What are your career goals or areas of interest?

My main career goal is to pursue a job in the medical field. I do not know specifically what job I want, but I know that my career will be centered on the idea of helping others through the advancement of medicine. My areas of interest are biology, volunteering, reading, movie enthusiasm, running, and playing soccer.

9. If you work, where are you employed and how many hours per week do you work? What do you like best and least about your job?

I currently do not have an official job during the school year because my parents feel that I should be focusing on my education rather than focusing on making money. During the school year, my main source of work experience comes from church volunteering for about 3 hours every week. On the other hand, during summer break, I work at my dad's liquor store as a stock boy and a part-time cashier from 8 a.m to 5 a.m for 4 days a week. This upcoming summer, I am looking forward to partake in a full-time job in a retail store in Fashion Valley Mall.

10. Use this remaining space to relate a specific event that affected you in some way (socially, physically, emotionally, or spiritually). The event you choose and the effect it had on you should give me some insight about you.

One specific event that has affected me in some way was when my oldest sister Natalia got into USC

dental school. Considering the fact that my parents had to move from Iraq to America because of religious persecution, it was very challenging for them to raise a child who would later go on to become a future dentist. Seeing my sister fulfill her dreams impacted me emotionally because it made me realize that anything is possible, and that hard work and dedication will eventually pay off in the future. I hope to follow in my sister's footsteps to one day pursue a job in the medical field.