After graduating from high school, I was indecisive in what I wanted to do in my life so I settled for business administration. My decision to change my major to social work was after a life altering event that happened to me in my second year in college. I was in a severe car accident and suffered a spinal cord injury that left me in a wheelchair. At the rehabilitation center, my case manager had also suffered from the same injury as I did in the past and was in a wheelchair. He was very helpful and supportive as I learned to adapt to the changes in my life. Seeing how my case manager helped me throughout the recovery process inspired me to pursue a career in social work. For the first time in my life, I was no longer indecisive, I knew what I wanted to do with my life—I wanted to help and motivate people.

There are many qualities I possess that I believe would make me a good social worker. I have discovered myself to be a very strong person. I have the willpower to accept fate, adapt to changes, and learn to be content with it. I’m a very open-minded person and respectful toward others. I’m friendly and can get along well with people. I come from a big family with six siblings, so I’m a family-oriented person. I’m also dependable and people can easily find themselves trusting me. I set goals and do my best to have them accomplish. I’m a neat person, so I like to be very organized. I’m a hard worker and am dedicated in performing well in any task that I undertake.

However, there are certain qualities that I regard as personal limitations that may affect my entry into social work. I find that some people treat me differently because I have a disability. People may see me as a handicap person and doubt my intelligence. Nevertheless, I know that I can overcome their prejudice once they get to know me. Another limitation for me would be my memory. I tend to be forgetful about things and find it hard to recall. Thus, I have to work harder than others to retain information. In addition, the fact that I’m obsessed with being neat may cause people to be annoyed by my certain desire to arrange items in a specific order.

Despite these limitations, I realized that I have the potential to help others who are going through rough times because of my personal struggles with recovering from the accident and learning to overcome my disability. Moreover, after my accident, I had many supportive people including family, friends, and strangers helping me adjust to my new way of living as a disabled person. I want to return the gratitude that I received to others. I want to educate and encourage others that anyone can get through rough times and continue living. I would like to work with the disabled community, but I am willing to work in any environment that I may eventually find suitable. I believe that I can make a difference in peoples’ lives and know that social work is the right field for me.