

BWS Education Consulting Ohio Public Universities Sample Essays

Ohio State University (Main Campus)

Prompt: Tell us about a personal quality, talent, accomplishment, contribution or experience that is important to you. What about this quality or accomplishment makes you proud and how does it relate to the person you are?

Three years ago, I thought that I would try something completely out of my comfort zone by joining the wrestling team. I had gone through challenging obstacles before—the Scholars program, AP and honors classes, and the like—but nothing like this. I thought to myself, “this should be a piece of cake, if I have challenged myself in other ways, then I can definitely do this.” Upon starting my first season as a wrestler, I realized how wrong I was. In my first year, I didn’t win a single match and was beaten to a pulp almost every single time. This was one of my biggest and most embarrassing disappointments I had experienced in a long time, but was also one of the significant milestones of personal growth and success in my life.

After an unsuccessful season, I strongly considered quitting; however, I chose to stick with it. Returning for my second season, I trained harder than ever to improve in my wrestling. After a few short weeks, my first tournament came up. Thankfully, my hard work paid off and I won my first match. The feeling I had after winning my first match was incomparable. Throughout my second season, I had some wins and losses, but I could already feel myself getting stronger both physically and mentally. In my third and last season of wrestling, these feelings continued to grow and intensify. I was finally able to reach full confidence, win more matches, and improve my skills.

Looking back, I am so grateful that I had continued to wrestle, even after such a disappointing start. Joining the wrestling team, an activity so foreign that I would have never considered doing before, helped me realize that this experience has allowed me to grow as a person. It was never about succeeding athletically, rather, it was an opportunity for me to get out of my comfort zone and learn such precious life values as humility, tenacity, and courage. Perhaps the most important lesson I learned is that we are not defined by our limitations; we are only defined by our potential.

Kent State University

Prompt: A decision that helped change your life

When it comes to making decisions, no matter how miniscule or profound they may be, so many people always seem to take the easy route. It is human nature to drift towards the comfortable and more stable situations. Have you ever heard of that seemingly reliable quote “Better safe, than sorry”? Just about everyone has at some point in their life but not very many people have ever stopped to think about it. Is it really better to choose the easy and more reliable path than to take the risk of following your dreams even though you may or may not accomplish what you had set out for? If I hadn’t challenged myself and took the chance of joining the school musical during my freshman year I never would have realized how much fun it is, how much I love performing on stage and how much I missed dancing.

In the fall of my freshman year in high school one of my friends was talking about how she was thinking about being in the musical that year and she thought I should do it, too. Though a little skeptical at first, I figured I may as well give it a try because it looked like fun. And it was. Not only did it convince me to continue doing it throughout the rest of my high school career, it also helped me become more confident and outgoing. It also made me realize that I missed dancing. It had been almost 5 years since I took dance classes and by the end of the year I was beyond excited to enroll in them once again.

In the fall, I was signed up for dance at a new studio and even though my cousin went there, I didn't know anyone who would be in my classes. I was a little shy at first but I knew that if I didn't make the first move and introduce myself I wouldn't make friends nearly as easily. So that is just what I did, I went up to a bunch of kids and started talking to them and ended up making a lot of friends all because I put myself out there and got to know new people. At the same time, I fell in love with dance. I always looked forward to dance class each night, I danced during my free time, and I started thinking about possibly having a career in dance. I just couldn't seem to get enough of it. It was a huge part of my life and still is to this day. I just love being able to express myself through dance and I love the feeling I get when I am performing on stage. It's amazing. Joining the school musical and dancing have had huge impacts on my life and the way I view everything, as well as the way I act. They have helped me to become the much more confident, free-spirited, and outgoing individual that I am today.

I have discovered over the years that I belong on stage, performing and doing what I love to do. I can't imagine a life without performing on stage. I have also realized that I can do anything I set my mind to. If you really want something bad enough then you just need to go for it. Forget the 'what if's' and 'buts', put your whole soul into it, and give it everything you've got because the only thing that's really holding you back is yourself. College is a place to put yourself out there. To experience and learn new things that you may have never even given a second thought to before. It's a place to make connections and meet new people who are not only in the same boat that you are but will also be there with you for the rest of the journey. Life isn't just going to hand you everything you need in a simple little care package, decide what you want to get from Life and go get it.

University of Cincinnati

Prompt: Please provide a Personal Statement regarding how your academic achievements, personal interests, and life experiences have helped prepare you to succeed academically and to be an active member of the UC community. Be sure your response addresses each of the three components. (Please limit your response to approximately 250 words).

My father is a combat Army veteran and struggles with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. During my junior year of high school many of his symptoms surfaced, causing my family stress and chaos. At a time when many might expect my life to crumble, I emerged a stronger person and a more motivated student. My father's trial with his disorder shaped my personal interests and has influenced many of my academic achievements. I developed a passion for psychology and medicine by learning how they coincide to produce real solutions for people who battle with mental illness. Consequently, I want to become a psychiatrist to help people like my father cope with their disorders. Throughout my first years of high school, my grades were mostly A's and

B's. Even though I was going through a lot of stress with my father's illness, I worked harder to obtain all A's for both semesters my junior year. Two years ago, I was ranked 4th in my class but I am currently ranked 2nd. My father's hardship, which has been a challenging life experience, has motivated me to succeed academically and has determined my future goals. My hardworking nature and compassion will serve as a beneficial component to the student body. As a result, I am confident I will adapt and thrive in the college environment and will be a worthy asset to the UC community.

Miami University (Oxford)

Prompt: Common Application – Topic of your choice.

Beep. Beep. Beep. It is 5:15 a.m. Time to roll out of bed and grab the t-shirt and shorts I laid out the night before. Even though it is dark outside, I know that in just a few minutes I will be racing around putting flags out to line the 10K Run course all over Evendale, a small village north of Cincinnati, Ohio. The race is the largest fundraiser of the year for our teen group, Phi Lambda Pi. Today is the Fourth of July—the biggest day of the year for Evendale. Some people might even say it's our Christmas. After the flags are in place, we are shuttled strategically throughout the course to fill water cups for the thirsty racers. We eventually return to the finish line to cheer on the runners and walkers. All of this takes place before 10:30 a.m. on one of our precious days of summer. In the evening, a family friendly festival takes place during which our Phi Lambda Pi organization hosts a Kid's Carnival. The week leading up to the Fourth of July is tirelessly spent drawing, painting, setting up tables and chairs, and decorating. On July 4th, we stand at our booths, greet every family and help the children play the games. When the carnival ends, we go outside and enjoy the firework display before having to go back in and take down what we have just worked so hard to put together. Regardless of the work, the best part of the Fourth of July festival is sharing so many experiences with my fellow Phi members. Phi Lambda Pi is a group that meets once a week at the community recreation center to hang out with friends, play unique games, and perform community service. Phi Lambda Pi ("Phi") has been my favorite activity for the past five years. It is where I have made lifelong friendships and incredible memories. My five years in Phi have helped me grow in various ways. I have had opportunities to socialize and go on trips with friends from different schools, help with projects around the community, be involved with leadership positions on both the governing committee and the Evendale Recreation Commission, and become close with adults that have been positive role models in my life. I have been able to escape the stress of everyday life and grow close to friends I love and people I trust. Five years ago, I was just a 12 year old girl living in Evendale, Ohio; only socializing with my small group of friends and not very involved in my community. Now, I am a very active member of the Village. I volunteer for many functions ranging from the Ice Cream Social to the Haunted Trail to the Fourth of July Festival and the pool concession stand and I have been able to work at the summer day camp. Through Phi, I have gained many leadership roles including the Governing Committee where I help plan activities for my peers and I am the Teen Representative on the Village of Evendale Recreation Commission where I attend monthly meetings with the Recreation Director, a councilman, a business representative, and several other residents of the community. Phi Lambda Pi has been an excellent growing experience for me.

University of Akron

Prompt: What are your long-term career goals? How is the degree necessary for the fulfillment of your goals?

I am a first generation college student; I realized that the only way to make it in today's work field is to obtain a college degree. All I want in the future is job I am passionate about, not a job that is dreaded each morning. I am not certain what my future holds that is why I chose accounting; it is an extremely flexible degree. Although becoming a certified public accountant is my ultimate goal, I also want a family. If I have a family I find it important to be able to be there for them. In that case it is my dream to create an independent business that can be ran out of my own home.

Throughout high school I worked diligently to maintain good grades and build a spectacular resume. I had seen so many high school graduates drop out of college merely because they could not afford the high cost of tuition. Even at that point I knew the only way to make it through college is with the support of scholarships and hard work. As a student in high school, I was an active member and officer of many organization within school, National Honors Society, Key Club, and Interact just to name a few. As a new college student I was somewhat worried about getting involved on campus because I was unsure of whether or not I could maintain sufficient grades while also being involved. Within the first semester at Akron I have proved that to myself, by making the dean's list. I am also one, of the two, Undergraduate Representatives on the Budget, Finance, and Benefits Committee for The University of Akron Council. I am involved in Undergraduate Student Government, Campus Focus, and Circle K International on campus as well as still being involved in my hometown. I return home as often as possible to help with the food pantry held every month at The Winona Friends Church. Helping others is something that is extremely important in my eyes, and I am passionate about improving my community in any way I am able to help. Beginning in October of last semester, I obtained a job through the work study program; I am an office assistant at the University of Akron's Department of Development. The work eight to ten hours per week, and perform a wide variety of tasks. These tasks include organizing information in programs such as LinkedIn and PeopleSoft, filing, and any other job that needs to be completed in order to allow the office to run smoothly. I also work at a local antique shop located in my hometown of Salem, Ohio. I worked there for two years before attending college, and I am still currently employed, working whenever I return home as well as over the summer. All college students work towards a common goal, a degree in whatever field one discover themselves interested in. As one strives to achieve their goal, we encounter obstacles. Each person is faced with unique obstacles and only they can decide whether they will give up or work towards conquering them. I choose to face and conquer the obstacles I am faced with; the largest obstacle in my education is lack of financial means. I am the oldest of three children; my parents have two other children to support. Although both of my parents are diligent workers, they cannot afford to provide me or even loan me the money required for this education. With the large amount of money necessary to cover everything from tuition to books, I've come to believe each penny I earn through scholarships makes a difference, while also reducing the stress that accompanies a college education.