



Sample Personal Statement #2 for College Applications and Scholarships

Brody stands at half court chewing on the string of his oversized shorts. Evan stands under the basket, waving at his parents with a grin from ear to ear. Kyle is in his own world, looking down the armpit sleeve of his blue jersey, and Rico, never running, skips down the court to his designated spot. These are only a few of the fond memories that bring a smile to my face when thinking of the years coaching boys' basketball with the Park District. Those were the years that I discovered that I am most fulfilled at the end of the day after working with kids.

Despite the meaningful work, at the age of 30, I found myself working at an IT company that I had grown up in. Staring immediately out of high school, I worked my way up to the VP on Construction Services, directing and managing a team of project managers, sub-contractors and various internal teams, all without a college degree. I spent my early twenties fixing problems, interacting with clients, and being a positive face to represent the company. Over those 12 years I faced challenges and situations I never would have imagined at such a young age. In reflection of those 12 years and prior, I realized that almost every position I've ever had, I landed in roles leading, managing, and teaching others.

It took not having work life balance to push me towards doing what I believe I was meant to be doing. I filled my intrinsic reward bucket outside of work with volunteer activities working with kids. When those activities were longer in my life, I found myself at a crossroads with a job I loved and a desire that needed to be filled. With my home situation in my favor, I dropped everything with the company that had shown me so much over the years. That bittersweet goodbye sent me hurling into academia full speed ahead, pursuing a passion and desire to teach kids in mathematics and science, areas I struggled with when I was younger. Still today, math and science don't come naturally to me; I must work hard at them. My college grades today show what I was always capable by studying hard and making connections between content to real world scenarios. My strengths are my fearlessness and my dedication. I am not afraid to take on challenges I know nothing about or to fail along the way as I see every failure is an opportunity. When I commit, I use my experiences to focus, lead, collaborate, and apply learned material to my academics. I thoroughly enjoy school, but I am not swift to retain immediately, requiring more time to digest material and creativity to think of ways to recall information. This may slow me down at home, but as of today, my weaknesses have not impacted my academic performance.

The ISU Redbirds were all around growing up in Bloomington, IL, but I never thought I could be one. ISU's multiple programs not only incorporate technology into their courses but they include diversity training, which I believe are essential skills in being prepared to teach. Being prepared is part my personality and having a program that partners with the local community to provide teachers with numerous hours of hands-on experience in the classroom shows me how dedicated ISU is to building prepared students to become top-notch teachers. ISU has a reputation that employers look for, and I want that. I will work diligently not only for myself but to be a part of the statistics of success that ISU can add to its reputation. ISU is my hometown college, and I would love nothing more than to say that it's the place that I earned my college degree.