

ESSAY PAGE

Of all that my father and mother have done for me, I am most thankful for the tools they have given me to succeed in my education and, as a direct result, my future. From as far back as my memory can stretch, I can recall my parents telling me how important my education is and how it will open so many doors of opportunity for me should I do well.

By reading to me from infancy, my parents instilled within me the importance of having a large vocabulary and being knowledgeable. I was taught that the written word is the most powerful tool in the world, and that honing my writing skill would be of great benefit to me throughout my life. Thanks to them, I am now a skilled writer. They taught me to constantly expand my horizons by learning as much as possible. Thanks to them, I want to continue my education far beyond high school. My mother showed me the importance of being cultured and would talk to me about art and foreign customs and languages. Thanks to her, I now love learning about different societies and can hold a conversation about a wide variety of art pieces and cultures from many different parts of the world. We recently visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, and I pointed out to her many different paintings, sculptures, and artists that I recognized. My father taught me about politics and the powerful empires of western civilization. Thanks to him, I can debate about politics and current issues because I now like to follow what is going on in the world politically. Both of my parents instilled me with a fascination for geography and world history. Thanks to them, I have a strong grasp on where different countries and natural landmarks are. With my knowledge of world history, I can also compare the present with the past and analyze what could possibly happen in our future, based off of the Thucydidean principle that history repeats itself. This is due to the belief that human nature is unchanging, and therefore people ought to respond to similar circumstances in similar ways.

My education has always been my parents' top priority. They have sacrificed very much, just so that my younger brother and I may receive the best education available. By placing us in private schools, they invested so much money into our schooling—money that could have gone elsewhere, but was used instead to guarantee a high quality of education. In fact, my father served in Iraq for an entire year with only a two-week break in between six months just so that I could finish my four years of high school in one school. If he had not gone to Iraq, we would have had to move to another state in between my sophomore and junior years, which would have disrupted my courses and curriculum. Thanks to the selfless decisions my parents have made throughout my life, I will now be graduating from high school in the top two percent of my class (the top three students), and have many powerful tools in my arsenal for when I go off to college and out into the world beyond the safety and security of my parents' household.