

# Christina Colwell

## Essay - (500-750 words) - Explain a situation where you had to overcome an adversity.

Ten different schools in four different states over twelve years of schooling- yes, it is crazy. It was a combination of crazy, chaotic, and, at times, constricting. Moving in this manner challenged my perspective of normal. It is normal to have a place recognized as home, a reliable fortress providing solace and stability. I wish I could answer the normal question “where do you call home” without hesitation. Home is a constant in which a child can derive sameness, but, for me, there was no apparent sameness. Each state, city, and school was so contrasting in cultural norms, societal expectations, and academic curriculum and approach. This carousel of zip codes also impacted how I handled my scholastic settings. Nevada’s mathematics teaching approach is a bit more abstract and visually rooted, while Michigan was very straightforward and traditional with lessons and corresponding practice problems.

I learned to incorporate both parts of my brain, both creative and analytical, which fostered a unique perspective of my mathematical mentality and thought process. In foreign classroom settings, I learned that my experiences and understanding of math could lend itself as the common denominator between me and my new classmates. I offered insight into ways to think about math that had never been pondered before, and that sparked conversations to break the ice. Ultimately, initiating friendly discussions and acquaintances. Academically, my achievement never drastically faltered amidst the translocations, but the immersion of my academics with the community did. Knowledge becomes more meaningful when its application transcends the classroom walls and its purpose creates a positive impact, but I stayed in a place long enough to discover such opportunities.

Finally around middle school, my family became stationary and I was eager to maximize the advantages of stability. I conquered the hardships of disruptive moving by not allowing the awkwardness and discomfort of unfamiliar situations deter me from staying true to myself. Currently I teach at Mathnasium, bringing my story full circle. I continue to share my knowledge with others, similar to those times in the classroom where I did the same.

Consequent to moving, I visited a myriad of doctors. In each doctor’s visit, I recognized the attributes of the physician who made me feel welcomed, understood, and comfortable with sharing personal details or questions. My aspirations, talents, and passions all lead to one conclusion- I belong in the medical field. I have carefully weighed the nuances embedded in the career- learned through research, conversations, and internships- revealing the unique mental demands as well as the difficulty of balancing a work/home life in this profession. Will it be hard, yes, but this fails to deter my focus from completing the ultimate goal: earning the white coat. I viewed a glimpse of the “white coat” as an intern for Leadership Initiatives: Public Health.

Through this opportunity, I diagnosed a patient, living in Nigeria, with a complicated case of Malaria and Typhoid Fever through a virtual session. I initiated this conversation with a smile, and the call ended with an even bigger one. Overcome eager anticipation for the future, I became determined to help people through medicine professionally. I enjoy connecting with others in a myriad of settings- tutoring, cheering, and leading the children’s ministry- furthering my excitement for a future in healthcare. I have spent over 1,000 hours providing human-centric service and thoroughly valued every minute. Another component of the diagnosis I appreciated was the aspect of problem solving. From my childhood MENSA books to my art class debates on what medium best conveys my message to deciphering a patient’s underlying condition, I enjoy the challenge of determining solutions. My interested acquaintance with medicine is now a clear vision of my purpose: connecting with others while wearing that white coat.