

NAU Writing Contest

My Life Goals and Career Plan

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As long as I can remember, I've wanted to become a pilot. When I was about five years old, I owned a model of an F-16 fighter jet. When it came time to play, I'd choose to play with the fighter. I'd run around the house holding it up in my hands imagining I was the pilot. I would imagine flying stealth missions, attacking enemy aircraft carriers, or taking down the enemy's fighters. Today, I still dream of piloting a U.S Air Force fighter jet, however, I know there will be many challenges to get there.

My Dad is a veteran of the U.S Air Force, and taught me about the challenges I might encounter. Pilot school is very competitive. Thousands apply but only few make it through. Not only must you have a good education, but you also must have a tough mind and strong character. Chesley Sullenberger, had both these. He had an incredibly strong mind as he decided to land his airliner on the Hudson River saving every person on board. Chesley had to make a split second decision in order to land his aircraft safely. His mental toughness provided a safe outcome, whereas in other situations may have proven fatal. He received his pilot training in the U.S Air Force Academy and flew the F-4 Phantom in Vietnam during the war. Sully is a great example of who I'm striving to be. He had tremendous character and mental toughness.

Because of Sully's example and other great heroic pilots I know how important it is to prepare for both high school and collage. My Dad has inspired a passion for excellence in me. He has brought me up with good natured justice and morales. In order to keep my brain sharp and in tune, I take part in an advanced math class as a middle-schooler. Also I volunteer for parish activities and I attend a summer camp every year devoted to building strong character in

young men. I'm looking to obtain the strong character of a man who lives his life with justice, wits, and a sharp mind.

A pilot must have a passion for excellence because if he fails to make one calculation, it might ruin the entire mission, or worse yet, cost lives.. When in flight instruments used to calculate distances, speed, altitude, pitch and yaw stop working, a pilot has to have the ability to make all those calculations in his or her mind in a split second. A pilot must also have the charisma of a well developed socially and mentally person. If in the military, the pilot must have nerves of steel and requires little to survive if his aircraft were to crash. Also he must be extremely good at making quick decisions in order to spare his own life and even possibly the lives of his fellow brothers and sisters in combat. A pilot must be academically advanced and have a body which fits the physical requirements.

I am passionate about personal and academic excellence and constantly strive to achieve high honors and good grades. There are many young competitors ready to take the position of a pilot. The better prepared academically and socially the more competitive I might seem to those hiring. Every good grade is a step closer to becoming an Air Force pilot.