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12th Grade

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Oklahoma

What Drives Me

From a young age, I loved going to school. For most of my classmates, their favorite part of the school day was lunch or recess, but my favorite part was simply learning in the classroom. School always has been a place where I thrived. I have an insatiable desire to learn and my teachers, both past and present, have always kept that fire inside me burning. However, there is one subject that has captivated me more than any other; history. History has been my favorite subject in school for as long as I can remember. There is nothing more fascinating to me than learning more about who we are, where we came from, and why we're here. I believe that there isn't anything that we can't learn from history, and my passion for the subject has shaped the way that I view the world and has heavily influenced my goals for the future.

George Santayana, a philosopher and Harvard professor, wrote that "Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it." I've always found this quote to be incredibly accurate and it's something that I think resonates with society. Any lesson that we must learn has already been taught to us. History holds all the answers to our questions, and I want nothing more out of life than to help others realize that. My motivation in life has always been fueled by my eagerness to both learn and educate. My drive comes from my passion for history and thirst for knowledge. From a young age, I have been aware of how important knowledge is. If there is

anything history has taught me, it is that our education is something that cannot be taken away from us, no matter the circumstances.

I've been fortunate enough to have been taught by some truly remarkable teachers. These teachers have never failed to lead, encourage, and inspire me. I can confidently say that I would not be where I am without their guidance. Past teachers of mine and their lessons have been the driving force behind everything that I do, and for that, I am forever in their debt. I have hopes to one day pursue a career in education. I want to be the person to foster the same love for learning and history that I have in my students, just as my teachers have done for me. I want to provide my future students with the same knowledge that I have yearned to have for much of my life. I wish to be able to teach the same lessons through history that I have so graciously been taught. The What Drives You scholarship will help to support me and pave the road for me to achieve my lifelong dream to become an educator and pay forward the generosity and support that I have been given by my teachers throughout my time in school.