

Instructions

Short Answer Essays:

Answer BOTH of the following questions. Your response must be 300 words or less per question. Utilize the "Next" and "Back" buttons to navigate. When you are finished, please move on to the remaining sections of this application.

Question 1:

Describe in your own words the value participating in The First Tee has had in your life. Tell a story about yourself using one of the Life Skills you have applied (NOT Nine Core Values!). Include examples of personal growth, development of leadership traits, core value enhancement, and golf skill development. How will these lessons help you to succeed in college?

Resilience demands fortitude that separates the mediocre from the excellent. It was my tenth core value, but as I began to develop a deeper understanding of The First Tee, I found that resilience is not lacking in the curriculum. Instead, it is written into our foundation, the 4Rs.

In sophomore year, our team sought to solve a national issue, rapidly-aging pipelines. After months of bouncing ideas off of one another, stealing circuit boards from old electronics, and designing 3D models, we created a prototype that would navigate pipelines for leak detection. As expected, the model which used mechanical buttons was unable to maneuver pipelines efficiently. So, it was back to the drawing board. This time, it used air pressure to detect leaks and featured a 3D-printed chamber. After hours poured into our project, the results were less than desirable. The material was too porous, so our chamber was useless. Tensions rose, and we had no solution. Rather than crumbling under pressure, I suggested a break, and we returned with fresh minds. I found that emotionally taxing moments like those tested my understanding of the 4Rs, but ultimately helped me grow the most.

The 4Rs, especially in that moment, taught me a type of enlightened resilience. While it is desirable to try and try again, the first word, "Replay," emphasizes this idea of learning from one's mistakes. I strongly believe that the first word makes all the difference because it promotes growth as opposed to blind attempts. In college, the 4R's will not only help with overcoming adversity, but also help me emerge with grace as a stronger, more educated person. Thanks to the 4R's, I will not cower in the face of a challenge. I will aim high, unafraid of failure because I know that I may overcome any obstacle.

Question 2:

Where do you see yourself in 5-10 years after completing your formal education? Please describe what you envision your occupation being and how The First Tee Life Skills Experience will have influenced and guided you during this time.

After completing my formal education, I plan on continuing my late grandma's mission of being a "servant of the people." I plan on creating my own startup or working closely with organizations like Engineers Without Borders, a company whose philanthropic pursuits are accomplished by engineers. Ever since I was young, I have always wanted to serve a purpose beyond myself. For this reason, I would love to find myself in a career where I may merge my fascination of computers with my burning desire to help the community.

The invaluable lessons from The First Tee will play an integral role in accomplishing this goal. For starters, collaboration skills have become a necessity in the workforce, and The First Tee has outlined multiple life skills in this area. In the future, ALR would not simply be utilized in meet-and-greet situations. Rather, this model for proper interpersonal communication will be essential in fostering unity among people by allowing team members to feel respected and heard in a professional setting. Go-To Teams would also be essential in the pursuit of my career. There will be many occasions in which I may struggle, and networking, which First Tee strongly promotes would help me have multiple resources to reach out to.

Most importantly, the values instilled by The First Tee have programmed my moral compass to seek a life of philanthropy. They taught me that I must first respect myself. I think it would be easy for me to drop my aspirations and pursue a more lucrative trade, but I know I'd feel short changed and unsatisfied with my limited societal impacts. Out of the self-respect that First Tee stressed, I will dedicate my life to serving others because I know it is what I was born to do.