

Briefly describe a time that your efforts have fallen short, a goal was not accomplished, or an aspiration was not achieved.

Since I struggle with stealth dyslexia, I hesitated to take a foreign language. Knowing that I am a visual learner who loves using my hands, I wanted to learn sign language. ASL is not offered at my school, so I signed up for my first online course. I struggled to stay motivated and practice without real people. Failing to pace myself caused me to paint myself into a corner where I was physically unable to complete the units in time to schedule and take all of my tests before my course expired.

What steps did you take to recover from this defeat? What resources did you use? How and why are you different today?

As a natural consequence for not finishing the course, I had to pay for half of the cost. It was a lot of babysitting money for me. I was embarrassed that I had planned so poorly, and I decided that I would be more proactive in the future. Knowing that I would need to take a foreign language to graduate, I heavily debated about what I should do. Around this time, I started eating lunch with Yiran and Jessica, two incredible girls that had both immigrated to the United States from China. As I got to know them better, not only did they become some of my best friends, I grew fascinated with Chinese culture and language. I love calligraphy, and the appeal of Chinese characters sealed the deal. I am now the only senior in Chinese 2, and even though I sometimes have a hard time, I love Chinese. I love catching bits of random Chinese phrases at the park, I get excited when I can hear our Chinese neighbors playing outside, and I enjoy being able to pick out characters in the Chinese *Friend* Magazine that my dad ordered for me.

Right now I say, "对不起我的中文不好," meaning, "Sorry, my Chinese is not good." I hope to continue to take Chinese at BYU and one day proudly say, "我说中文, 我该怎么帮忙?" meaning, "I speak Chinese, how may I help?" Even though failing ASL was stressful and disappointing, I am grateful that it helped me prepare for online classes I had to take while quarantining during COVID, and I am grateful for the opportunities Chinese gives me now, and will give me in the future.

Have you become aware of significant needs in your family, school, and/or community? Please explain how you have worked toward meeting those needs. (first version)

“Beware of Maria, she’s the reason my last cashier left,” my manager warned me. I nodded and straightened my Carl’s Jr. cap, smoothed out my shirt, and took a deep breath, glancing back at the kitchen. Most of the cooks, including Maria, were unable to speak or understand more than a few words of English. Maria came around the corner, right into my manager’s office, pushed past me, and demanded something in Spanish.

My manager shoed me out. As I tried to take the next customer’s order, Maria and my manager were still arguing in the office.

At the end of the day, Maria grabbed her bags, and rushed to leave.

I nervously called after her, “adiós!” It caught her off guard, but she turned and gave a small eyebrow raise just as the door slammed behind her.

Each day as she left, I’d wave and say, “adiós,” even when she didn’t respond.

Then, she got her COVID vaccine, and came to work with her eyes swollen and her body sore. My manager saw her struggling, told her she was a “tropper,” and went back to his office. That day I helped her as much as I could. At the end of all my efforts, she gave me a single nod, “gracias.”

The next day, I woke up sore, and I thought about how hard it must be for her to work so hard everyday. From that day on, I quietly did the dishes, carried heavy boxes, read her expiration dates that were too small for her to see, and made a special effort to learn the words she began teaching me. I’d repeat words like Queso, Carne, and Pollo, and then I’d teach them to her in English.

My manager picked up on the fact that we were becoming closer, and so he asked me to open with her at 5:30 am each morning. I’d say, “Buenos dias!” and she’d smile.

After I showed her a picture of my family, and gave her a tiny loaf of bread, she began to bring chocolates, a tiny banana, and hard boiled eggs for me to take home to my sisters.

One day, when the lines were particularly long, the drive-thru was particularly backed up, and my manager was rushing me more than usual, I began to sweat under the stress.

Maria quietly noticed me struggling, and began packaging the food into the bags so I wouldn’t have to. She reached out the drive-thru window, handed the car their food, and said in her best English possible, “Bye-bye!”

My manager looked at me, then at her, and then back at me, shaking his head in disbelief.

When my family came to visit me, my mom was able to talk to Maria in the Spanish she had learned at BYU. She found out that Maria was 47, and already a grandmother to grandkids that lived in El Salvador with her daughters that she had not seen for years. I learned that not only did she work 8 hours a day at Carl’s Jr., she worked the night shift at a pizza place.

As I heard these things, gratitude rushed over me. I’m grateful that I was able to give her the benefit of the doubt and see who she really was, a grandma who longed for home, so I could be who she needed me to be—a stand-in granddaughter.

Have you become aware of significant needs in your family, school, and/or community? Please explain how you have worked toward meeting those needs. (second version, submitted)

A brilliant kindergartener, two rambunctious young boys, and a lonely elderly woman may appear to have little in common. Although they face unique challenges, their solutions are the same. As I have worked with each of these individuals in my community during the pandemic, I have learned that what they all need is positive attention.

I volunteered to tutor an underchallenged kindergartener virtually. When I came to the first session armed with books like *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, I was amazed with how easily she read them. She also understood math at a third grade level, so I wondered if she would benefit from our time together. As I gave her positive feedback, something she didn't get enough of at home, she continued to progress, and was motivated to learn more.

As a volunteer reading to kids living in RVs, I met a family with two boys who were particularly attention-seeking. Their grandma, with limited mobility and English, would threaten them when they began goofing off. I struggled to know what to do to improve the situation. Over time, I re-worked our afternoons to include active games in addition to the reading. I asked more questions about the books, and complimented them. As the weeks progressed, we were all rewarded by positive changes in our afternoons.

I was hired as a companion for "Grandma" Sheila, a kind, but often frustrated, woman. I would call to give her a reason to get up and ready for the day. After helping her find her glasses and take her medicine, we would play Scrabble. When she scored an impressive word, I would compliment her, and watch as she smiled with satisfaction. By making a special effort to give her positive attention, I could see some of her loneliness and frustration melting away.

My experiences with each of these individuals confirm what I learned about B.F. Skinner's theories in psychology class; people need attention to thrive. By giving it to them positively, I can make a difference in their lives and in mine.

We strive to create a rich and varied educational environment through admitting students with a wide range of:

- Goals
- Interests
- Skills and talents
- Life experiences
- Perspectives
- Cultures

Tell us your story. What will you contribute to our university community? Be specific. (First Version)

A is for Armenia--filling hundreds of tiny "Manti" with ground beef and parsley.

B is for Bangladesh--baking a creamy mango yogurt dessert.

C is for Colombia--making coconut limeade.

During the corona virus lockdown, my sister and I embarked on a self-initiated challenge to research, create, photograph, and post a dish from all 196 countries around the world. In order to get insight and recipes, I reached out to my international friends from Germany, New Zealand, Cameroon, and China.

Having lived in Germany during elementary school, I remember how lonely and frustrating it was at first while I was still learning German. Since I went through adapting to a new culture, language, and community, I have empathy for those who are in culture shock or simply longing for home. Now living in Silicon Valley, I interact with people from all around the world every day. I have found that food, especially food that holds cultural significance, is a perfect way to connect with others. I remember a friend in Germany attempting to make American cinnamon rolls because we mentioned how much we missed them. This act of kindness was more than a delicious treat; it made me feel loved. I strive to use my love for food and cooking to help others feel the same way. Each dish I made I would share with my friends, and sometimes my neighbors and friends as well.

Completing this challenge has given me a new skill set and confidence that not only can I try new things, I can be successful when I set goals.

Z is for Zimbabwe--celebrating with Malva Pudding that we had gone all the way around the world from the comfort of our own home.

Even though quarantining orders have come to a close, my cookbook remains open for the 50 US states, as I am still hungry for more.

Tell us your story. What will you contribute to our university community? Be specific. (Second Version, Submitted)

My sister and I embarked on a self-initiated challenge to research, create, photograph, and post a dish from all 196 countries around the world during the corona virus lockdown. We named our project Carmalized, a combination of our names, Carly and Macy. It also references good carma and caramelization, a technique used to make strong foods, like onions, sweet.

We reconnected with our international friends for recipes. As the challenge of choosing a dish from China approached, I contacted my friend from Beijing. Over Zoom, she taught me how to make traditional Chinese dumplings called 饺子, pronounced *Jiǎozi*. Inspired by how much joy cooking brought me and my friend, we co-founded a virtual, student-run cooking club. We prepared ethnically diverse recipes, and collaborated with guest speakers and other clubs. Even though we are now back in school, we continue building connections and celebrating culture through our meetings.

For one of my recipes, I also reached out to Greta, a childhood friend. She was my first friend in Germany and helped me learn the language. Living in Europe for three years exposed me to many different cultures, which prepared me to appreciate the diversity that I am now experiencing living in Silicon Valley.

One of the benefits of this diversity includes the many ethnic grocery stores, where we found exotic ingredients for our recipes. By the time we finished Carmalized, my love for culture, along with my sister, had caramelized. Still hungry for more of a challenge, we are currently cooking through the 50 states.

Each dish introduced us to a new phrase, a different cooking technique, or a unique ingredient. As a whole, this project taught me to take risks, try new things, connect with others, and share what I create. I will continue using these skills at BYU when I take new classes, meet new people, and try new things, while encouraging others to do the same.

Describe a topic, idea, or experience that you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. What have you done to learn more or engage further in the topic, idea or experience? What resources do you use to learn more?

When asked to describe Freestyle Academy, I wonder if I should give the long or the short version.

The short version: Freestyle is a separate campus that I go to for Film, Digital Media, and English.

The long version: Freestyle Academy of Communication Arts and Technology is what gives me motivation. It allows me to pursue my passions. It is what makes staying up late and waking up early to work on projects not only bearable, but enjoyable. It's what allows me to create films, documentaries, short stories, poems, photos, and websites with professional equipment. Each course, although taught by a different teacher, is intertwined. For example, we wrote a story in English and recorded it with sound effects in Digital Media. Then we designed our own album cover and posted it on our website. Using the narrative skills we learned in English, we wrote, pitched, storyboarded, directed, shot, and edited a narrative film.

When I am in the zone editing a film, time flies by as my mouse clicks and I watch the clips over and over again, trying to find the perfect place to make a cut so that the sound effect fits just right. When I break free from the zone and re-enter the world, I continue thinking about my projects throughout the day.

During almost every editing or creating session using Adobe programs, an idea forms in my mind, but I don't know how to implement it. How do I photoshop a hippopotamus into a pancake seamlessly? How do I apply a special effect? This technology coupled with resources like online tutorials, teachers, and peer ideas allow me to see my creative visions come to life.

With these skills, I am also able to be a resource for others. I've designed and edited flyers for club events, was employed by an elderly woman to edit her knitting videos and maintain her

website store, I've edited commercials for a non-profit organization, and, most recently, I compiled a birthday video with clips from friends and family for my sister on her mission.

When I got an email about Quarentutors, it was the name that caught my attention, but it was the goals of the organization that intrigued me to get involved. I was assigned to virtually tutor a kindergartener who went to a nearby elementary school each week. The first week, I had trouble starting the Zoom meeting, but once it finally went through, I had a wonderful time getting to know her, reading her books, and practicing simple math and spelling on a whiteboard. I soon realized that instead of reading physical books, reading the pDFs online so that she could follow along was the better option. I soon replaced the physical whiteboard with a digital shared-screen. Throughout the week, I would work on my lesson plan. In the shower or on a walk an idea would pop into my head for a new activity to engage and encourage her. As I watched her personality grow and academics improve, I was able to get a glimpse of the pride that teachers have in their students. My favorite part of our session was the beginning when she would tell me about her day. She took joy in the small moments, and would excitedly report on things like her friend wearing the same shirt as her on Zoom, or her teacher reading a book she loved.

One day, she logged onto the meeting with a huge smile on her face, and a box in her hands. She explained that she had "earned" a surprise toy because she had worked hard, but that she had waited to open the toy until I could watch her.

Each lesson was an hour, but as we played word games, worked through word problems, and read stories together, at the end of each hour, she would say, "time flies, our time is already up, aww!" I agreed.

Sometimes my younger sisters would join our lessons on my lap, listening to the stories and following along with the memory games. I realized that I enjoyed it so much that I began reading more with my sisters throughout the week as well.

Even though quarantine, and therefore Quarentutors, is over, I still love watching kids light up as they learn something new, and I love encouraging them to try new things. I love how time seems irrelevant and almost unimportant as I focus on what's happening in the moment and the child in front of me.

Activities

Make a Birthday Wish is a charitable organization that works with high schools in our community. Schools take turns putting on monthly birthday parties for kids who are born in that month and go to the local food bank. Students call each family to invite them, plan the party, and then celebrate!

I originally joined MABW because I enjoy decorating and party planning. I loved the idea of doing these things for a good cause. Serving as a member, then secretary, then vice president, and now president of MABW, I am implementing inclusion, delegation, and empathy.

At first, I sought after a cabinet leadership position because I felt frustrated that many of the decisions were being made solely by the cabinet members. After I joined the cabinet, I made a special effort to include the entire club by having all of the members brainstorm and vote on ideas more often.

In a further effort to include everyone and to help with delegation, I suggested and created a committee system. Whether someone is on the food, decoration, gift, or organization committee, everyone feels like they are part of the club and that their contributions matter.

Through working with this club, I have also developed a greater sense of empathy for those around me who are in need. Seeing how many children and families go to the food bank every day has opened my eyes to just how much need there is. As I work with these families, I am able to see how grateful they are, and it has humbled me to know how much it can help someone to feel celebrated.

Carl's Jr.:

During the summer I worked full time at Carl's Jr. starting at 5:30 am, and now work there on Saturdays. Since our location is small, when I am working I am the opener, trainer, cashier, drive-thru manager, and custodian.

With the goals of gaining experience while earning money for college, I started working at Carl's Jr., where I am acquiring many valuable skills including communication, leadership, and assertiveness.

Most of the cooks only speak Spanish, so I have found creative ways to communicate with them. One cook, Maria, left her children and grandchildren in El Salvador to come and work. At first, I was intimidated by her because she was not afraid to raise her voice or glare at everyone. One day, she came to work sore from her COVID vaccination, so I helped her wash dishes and carry boxes. From that day onward, I continue to assist her and try my best to learn Spanish words and phrases. She began making an effort to learn the English words I taught her, she softened, and now we are great friends.

After working for just a couple of weeks, my manager deemed me the new employee trainer. I learned how to take the lead and give instructions in a friendly way.

One of the most important skills I am developing is sticking up for myself and being assertive. On many occasions, my manager wants me to stay longer than eight hours, or run extra errands for him. At first, I agreed to all of his requests, but I soon realized that I need to set boundaries. This is important for me to learn, and I am still working on assertiveness, not only at work, but in other areas of my life.