

Ever since I was young, I have always loved helping out and making people smile.

I learned to bake. At first, I relied on cups and teaspoons, but my cakes turned out dense and dry. I began to understand the necessity of precision and switched to using a scale for more accuracy. It was a small change, but the results were noticeable. Lighter cakes and sweeter frosting are rewarding, not only because I get to enjoy the end product, but the people I love can enjoy them just as much.

I decided to start making costumes and props. I fashioned costumes out of things I had at home, like old t-shirts, cardboard, a hot glue gun, and other objects lying around to bring my ideas to life. Over time, I've mastered the glue gun with my precise movements, applying just enough without it overflowing, and cutting intricate details with precision. Sometimes I wouldn't even flinch when I touched the molten lava. As I tackled larger projects such as props, I had to solve problems with structure and design, ensuring they were sturdy but easy to store or transport.

At Freestyle Academy of Communication Arts and Technology, I took my creativity further. For one of my design Exploration projects, I learned to make jewelry out of wire, using wire cutters and pliers to bend the metal into hooks and interconnect them. My early attempts weren't perfect, the edges were jagged, and the metal bent awkwardly, but using a scalpel-like tool in my hand taught me the importance of patience and how small, precise movements made all the difference.

That same attention to detail also carried into my Animation class when I began 3D modeling and designing intricate assets while focusing on the smallest textures and shapes. I loved deciding which textures to use, adjusting colors, and refining shapes to bring my models to life. It's not just about making something look good, but ensuring every piece fits together perfectly.

In high school, I became the President of Dance Spectrum, a student-run program with over 170 students. As a student-run program, and as the President, I created choreography and taught dance classes, leading the program. During my Sophomore year, I taught Special Education students, English learners, and new dancers. At first, it felt like I was talking to a wall and struggled to engage them. I realized that I had to introduce new methods in my lessons to meet their needs, and once I did, I saw those once hesitant students performing on stage with bright smiles. Watching them, I knew that this job was more than just teaching dance, it was about giving them confidence and a sense of belonging. I'll never forget the pure joy of holding their hands as we walked across the stage together, bowing to the audience and hearing the roaring applause. Outside of Dancing in my program, I taught all ages from young elementary schools to women over their seventies.

That's why I'm drawn to becoming a dental hygienist. As a dental hygienist, I will do more than keep people's teeth clean and white—I'll search for subtle signs of oral disease and educate patients about maintaining healthy teeth.

With the increase of 3D technology in dentistry, such as imaging mouths to design retainers or prostheses, is where my skills will come into play. Just like my jewelry and costume props required small, precise movements, working on teeth demands the same level of focus and steady hands whether I'm crafting a prop or perfecting a smile. It's this blend of problem-solving and creative thinking that shapes the way I approach everything, from the projects I design to the smiles I'll help create. (650 words)