

## Personal Strengths

The ability to articulate one's personal values is a critical skill and one that will distinguish an individual throughout the scope of his or her career. Self-aware individuals that can effectively communicate their strengths are much more valuable in the professional world than those that cannot. In a competitive program such as this one, offers of acceptance are often contingent upon how well an individual communicates his or her values. I possess three key strengths that strongly qualify me for this leadership program: first, I am adaptive, which I demonstrated by handling adversity in my most recent summer job as a manager at a restaurant; second, I am achievement-oriented, which I demonstrated by returning to the playing field after a devastating sports injury; third, I am focused, which I demonstrated by consistently earning high grades in my extremely challenging Business Communication course at Temple University.

I demonstrated that I am an adaptive individual in my most recent summer job as a manager at an Italian restaurant by handling the many unexpected challenges that arose over the course of the summer. In one situation, I was the only manager working, and the restaurant was extremely understaffed. The restaurant became unexpectedly busy, and many of the other employees on staff were young and barely trained. Although I had an influx of pizza orders to make, I managed to seat customers, take orders, answer calls, and direct staff. The shift ended up being successful because I was able to quickly adapt to the situation. There were numerous other occasions over the course of my employment where something unexpectedly went wrong in the restaurant, and I was able to contain the damage by being adaptive to the situation.

I demonstrated that I am an achievement-oriented by recovering from a devastating sports injury at a difficult time in my life and returning to the field better than I was before I was injured. When I was a junior in high school I suffered a gruesome knee injury playing football for my school. This was especially difficult to handle because my father had passed away six weeks before my injury. Many doctors did not believe I would ever be able to play sports again, but I refused to accept that notion and made it my goal to return to the field better than I was before I was injured. After major surgery and seven months of intense rehab, I returned to the field in time for my senior season. That season, my teammates elected me as a captain, and the state recognized me as one of the best linebackers in the state, which proves that I returned from my injury better than I was before I got hurt and that I achieved my goal.

I demonstrated that I am a focused individual by consistently earning high grades in my extremely difficult Business Communications course at Temple University. The Business Communications department at Temple is nationally recognized as one of the best business programs of its kind in the country, and the Business Communications course is demanding and rigorous. The course curriculum consists of five major papers, two major presentations, and numerous other assignments over a fifteen-week semester. To do well, I had to remain extremely focused and organized the entire semester because there was an assignment due nearly every class meeting, which I had three times a week. I did not do very well on the first major paper, but I learned from my mistakes and made the necessary corrections to do well in the remainder of the course. I received A's on the final four assignments, including the most challenging paper. My steady focus throughout the semester allowed me to excel in the course.

I possess three strengths that distinguish me as an excellent candidate for this leadership position: first, I am adaptive, which I demonstrated by handling adversity in my job as a manager at an Italian restaurant; second, I am achievement-oriented, which I demonstrated by returning to the playing field after a devastating knee injury; third, I am focused, which I demonstrated by earning exceptional grades in my rigorous Business Communications course at Temple University. Through this assignment, I have been able to identify my strengths and the specific life experiences that prove those strengths. This knowledge will be extremely useful in the future to distinguish myself as a professional. This assignment has also forced me to identify a few weaknesses, and I intend to work towards developing those weaknesses into strengths as I move forward.