

**Sample College Essay #1 submitted for Admission to the
University of Washington**

Prompt: "Discuss how your family's experience or cultural history enriched your or presented you with opportunities or challenges in pursuing your educational goals."

For generations my family has devoted their lives to actual survival and finding contentment. As Armenians, we have struggled through genocide and economical devastation. My family's lives were focused on their livelihood as human beings. Survival was their first priority and thus education was not really an issue. For my grandparents, it was not even possible to attend school in any form. When my family chose to come to the US, they gave my brother and me the most amazing gift, the opportunity to gain a real education. I was given the chance to not have to struggle with attaining the best education possible. The struggles my family faced helped me realize that education is a true privilege. My family's lack of education helps me focus more on getting the most out of my education and therefore being the first in my family to go to college.

As Armenians, my family has struggled a great deal to get us where we are today. My great grandparents lived through the Armenian Genocide by hiding in caves. After the Genocide, all four of my grandparents were born in Turkey, in small remote villages. They struggled to constantly work on their family farms to put food on the table. Education was not even an option in their small villages. None of my grandparents had the opportunity to go to school or even to learn how to read or write.

My parents were born in the same setting as my grandparents. Later on, their families were fortunate enough to move to the city. They moved to Istanbul, Turkey. My parents had the opportunity to begin school, but moving to the city presented a new struggle, that of finding jobs sufficient to support their family. This was of utmost importance in their survival. School was deemed less important and therefore my mother chose to stop attending school after the fifth grade in order to help support her family. She got a full time job at a sewing factory at the age of 12. My father was fortunate enough to be able to go to school and hold down a job at the same time, but he did not graduate from high school. Another reason my parents did not get an education is because their parents did not instill the value of education in them. At the time my grandparents did not realize how much of an impact education could have on their families.

Their struggles became even greater when they decided to move to Armenia. Both my mother's and my father's family realized it was a mistake to move to Armenia when they got there. It was apparent that Armenia's economy had not recovered from the 1915 Genocide. Everyone had to work for the family to survive. Furthering their education was not even an issue. It was at this point my parents got married. They realized that life was going to be difficult in Armenia, no matter what, so they decided they would move to America.

I was six months old when my family got our Visas to travel to America. We made the long journey from Armenia to Glendale, California, in September of 1990.

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into an essay that conveys the student's personality interests and thinking Sample essays with critiques include both winning essays and losers

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Essays that Worked for College Applications Boykin Curry, Brian Kasbar, 2003-07-29 Essays that Worked for College Applications offers advice on writing a successful college admissions essay and presents fifty examples

On Writing the College Application Essay Harry

Bauld,1987 Offers tips on how to write meaningful essays for college admission applications Includes sample essays

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