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Discovering Your Own Story

Taken from: How to Prepare a Standout College Application by Alison Cooper and Anna Ivey.
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Your story refines the information that you want the admissions office to know about you. It is a structured, short statement of who you are that will persuade an admissions officer to admit you. It highlights your best credentials and characteristics in terms of **what matters to the admission office.**

Follow the template below:

MY STORY

1. A few important things to know about me before you read my application are _____, _____, and _____ . (Use your demographics)
2. As a student, I _____. (Use words that will distinguish you from other similar students, not numbers - GPA, test scores and rank cannot. Share subjects you love, how you learn and what you contribute to a classroom)
3. Outside the classroom, I _____. (Think about the way you've made an impact)
4. Close friends and family describe me as _____. (Show these qualities through anecdotes and experiences)
5. Right now, I imagine that I will pursue a career in or as an _____. (Be bold and creative; think big)

Example:

A few important things to know about me before you read my application are that I am the only child of Colombian immigrants, and I grew up speaking Spanish at home. I moved to Miami, FL in 8th grade. As a student, I love math, biology and other life sciences. Outside the classroom, I have devoted myself to gymnastics and I have achieved a lot in the sport, but because of a serious injury, I am not going to continue to compete in gymnastics. Instead, I want to pursue my photography and painting with the same enthusiasm I gave to gymnastics. Close friends and family describe me as persistent, kind and inquisitive. Right now, I imagine that I will pursue a career in sports medicine.