Casey Willis Genetics- Writing assignment #1

2018- World of Beer in Albany New York, I was managing the bar at night and working for a medical company during the day. Little did I know this day was going to change the rest of my life. A woman with a gorgeous baby strapped to her chest walked in and told me her story. In her early 20’s she was diagnosed with a condition that wouldn’t allow her to continue producing eggs- so she froze them… 5 years later, her and her husband found a surrogate and they were able to start their family. The joy on her face cannot be put into words. It was right there, in that moment, that I realized I wanted nothing more than to be a part of that miracle. My research began, and I realized how important it was to me that I pursued becoming a reproductive Endocrinologist.

When I first approached the idea, it was scary and seemed out of reach. But the more I investigated it, the more I wanted it. Becoming a reproductive endocrinologist has a lot of schooling and work in general, but the harder and more in depth I saw the schooling was, the more drive I got to become one. There are barriers that I have overcome in my life that I believe play a major role in why I will be successful in medical school. First and I would say largest barrier is where I come from and how I grew up. I come a small town where not many people leave, and a majority is in, or directly above the poverty line. The opioid epidemic hit my town and surrounding towns extremely hard, and unfortunately my brother was sucked in. Throughout high school, I lived in my own apartment in a building my grandmother owned due to family problems. Within that time my brother became and addict and was staying with me. So, while trying to graduate high school early (& hold a job to pay my bills I was also taking care of him every night. Checking his pulse randomly throughout the nights and making sure he was alive every morning. I still accomplished graduating high school in my junior year and starting college courses immediately. My brother’s addiction made my life a hazard for me and anyone in it. After being robbed a few times and my brother having me mixed up with the wrong people, I made the decision to leave N.Y. after my first year of college. This was for my safety. I used the pain and sadness of the situation and of leaving to drive me into not only getting a sales job and being top tier, but I made my way up the chain in 2 ½ years. Then lost everything in 2016 to a flood in Baton Rouge. I found myself homeless, carless, and jobless forced to move home. These obstacles are the very things that set-in motion my ability to overcome and succeed.

When I think of medical school, I think of all the times I could have given up and stayed in the small town, living paycheck to paycheck, and not making a difference in the world. Instead, the thought of being stagnant makes me cringe. It is the problems and obstacles we have faced in our pasts, are facing in everyday life and will face in our future that drive us to be stronger and remind us how strong and resilient we are. I would be a good candidate for medical school because I am driven and willing to put in the hours and work to get where I want to be in life. To a point where I am helping people, every day. I know I will succeed in the field, not only because I’m passionate about it, but because I know given my past, that I am able to accomplish and overcome anything I want and put my mind to.

I fought for what seems like my entire childhood and early adult years, in a life-or-death situation. My brother’s heroin addiction plays a major role in why I work so hard and will never settle. I used to believe that my past traumas are best left unsaid… after getting to know myself better I find they’re actually better said. Talking out loud and accepting the traumatic experiences makes the motivation and drive to be better more realistic. Hearing another person’s traumatic experiences put in light, that some traumas can’t be cured, but there is a way to still achieve happiness. The main reason why being a reproductive endocrinologist is my goal. Your cant let your traumas define you, let them drive you to be better and happy.