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**Prompt #1**

I am a military brat. Every four years, there is a new place, new people, and a new life for me. Despite that I've grown up in numerous of places, I was able to explore and learn throughout these moves. This experience has positively developed my character throughout the years. Even though it was hard to start anew, I can say that I was given an incredible opportunity to be able to meet new people, encounter new cultures, and try out various activities.

One of the best things about living in different locations is meeting new people and creating friendships with others. I was able to adapt and make new friends quickly every time I moved to a different place. I joined in clubs and activities to become friends with people who had the same interest as me. I met some pretty awesome people who later on became my close friends. While I was in Japan, I got to visit multiple Japanese schools and meet with such wonderful people. It was amazing to spend time interacting with the Japanese students and to see how their school operates.

Experiencing new cultures had opened my eyes to a new world. Meeting people who have different perspectives, backgrounds, and life experiences had led me to be open-minded. I used to live in Japan and it was tremendously exciting and liberating to explore their culture. I fell in love with the delicious cuisine and the people. My parents had raised me to be interested in many cultures and to accept and respect it as well. All by discovering its music, trying new foods and learning about the history and traditions. I realize that being exposed to various cultures, languages, and ethnic groups that we are all interconnected and similar.

Throughout my life, my parents exposed me to different kind of activities. They wanted me to find my interest or hobby that I liked the most. I had the opportunity to see things I may not otherwise see, and do extraordinary things that I wouldn't have. I took interest in ballet, swimming, art, and more. Most especially volleyball; I started doing volleyball since the seventh grade and it became my passion. Volleyball had strengthened my personality and challenged me. It taught me how to set objectives and work hard to achieve them. It affected me academically by leading me to become a hardworking person to strive for good grades.

My experience being a military child had enabled me to try out various of activities, meet wonderful people, and learn new cultures. I've learned over the years that I am not defined by the geographical locations, but rather by the experiences and choices I made. I have found out that I want to help people by learning how their brain works and by studying their behavior. I am thankful to be able to find what I love by going through this experience and being able to discover new interests.

**Prompt #2**

I’ve done a fair amount of volunteer work in my life. Volunteering instills a sense of giving back to the community; all of which benefited me through my academics and personal life. It’s amazing to see how my contribution has made a difference in the community. I’ve done most of my volunteering dealing with children. I had volunteered as a volleyball coach, a leader for a camp, and a tutor.

I incorporated my hobby into volunteering which was volleyball. I wanted to teach the youths how to play volleyball by being a coach. I have been drawn to coaching because of my desire to give back to the sport. I usually spend an hour for about three to four times a week. I coached children from fifth grade to tenth grade. I was able to be lucid and tolerant towards the kids since it took a lot of patience to get them to understand. I was impressed to see that the kids were learning and improving their volleyball skills because I demonstrated it to them. I love volleyball and I wanted to share it with other children.

Furthermore, I volunteered at my local camp for children under the ages of twelve. I was able to be a good role model for the children by getting to know them, always having a positive attitude, and influencing them with inspirations. This experience was genuinely exciting and productive. I became close to some of the children and it was wonderful to know that the they liked me very much.I loved the people I worked with, the children and getting to know them, and being able to be good role models for them.

As for right now, I am volunteering for this program called The Leaven for my service learning project. This program is where I help and tutor children who live in struggling neighborhoods where drop-out rates are high and violence threatens the community. This has given me an opportunity to give back to the community and help make a difference. It also offers me the chance to try out a new career and gain new skills. It taught me about responsibilities and how to be unselfish. I thought tutoring was going to be tedious but the more time I spent there, the more it became enjoyable.

All of the places I volunteered at was such an exhilarating opportunity for me. It’s unbelievable that I would end up loving volunteer work. Volunteering is not just about helping others, but it can also a way to help myself develop as a person. In addition, I gained valuable skills that will help me be successful in life. I learned how to be patient, a good communicator, and always have an optimistic attitude. However, any amount of time I can give, is enough to make a significant difference in someone else's life, including my own. I’m thankful to be able to play a role in a child’s life by giving them inspirations.