Name

Engelbert

English 11

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1.)

In ninth grade, I set a goal for myself: I wanted to increase the presence of the Latino Culture Club at my school—I wanted it to be one of the clubs people talked about and actually wanted to join.

We have a fairly balanced mix of races at my school, but that doesn’t necessarily mean that our opinions are as fairly balanced. I believe that to some extent we all represent others who look like us and come from similar backgrounds, and if we can create favorable impressions of our cultures with others, we can help reduce the racial tension that plagues some areas of the US.

Running for president, I gave some short speeches and presentations, and my fellow club members seemed impressed. And then I launched my big plan: Pull off an event that the whole school would talk about.

We had dozens of suggestions, but in the end, we decided on a food festival with music; after all, if there’s anything that brings people together, it’s delicious food. For several months, we planned and marketed. I believe that any good leader is also in the trenches, so in addition to overseeing preparations, I was also planning for my table, which would showcase the Brazilian snack “kibe” (a Middle East-inspired mixture of beef and bulgar wheat that is fried and served with hot sauce). I decided to play “baile funk,” a style of dance music popular in clubs in Rio de Janeiro.

We encountered a number of obstacles and disagreements along the way, but nothing that logical discussion and decision-making couldn’t overcome. In the end, I couldn’t have been happier with the result—for the four hours of the event, I heard the laughter of the attendees amid the various types of music being played. While I cannot state with 100% certainty that our club succeeded in creating a positive image of Latino culture at our school, I can say without any hesitation that everybody who attended had a good time and left with tummy full of delicious food, all homemade and provided by us.

6.)

I've been drawn to science since I was in Kindergarten. I remember when our class did a science experiment in which baking soda and vinegar are combined to make a "volcano." The reaction of the two substances was like magic. I absolutely had to know why and how this happened. I had so many questions, and so few answers. Over time, I learned that science is all about asking questions. Everything in the natural world became mysterious when I started asking questions. Science was the subject that seemed to have the answers. I became obsessed with science, and specifically Biology-the science of all living things.

Outside of school, my love for biology showed up in my habit of hiking in nature. Throughout high school, I led hikes and excursions as part of my Boy Scouts group. I also joined the local Audubon society. I took advantage of any opportunity to spend time in nature. I volunteered for local events to clean up rivers and lakes and even participated in taking water samples for quality control. I also became a camp counselor during my senior year and led groups of elementary school students on nature hikes. I was able to share facts about biology and share my passion for nature.

I plan to pursue advanced studies in Biology and answer many of the questions I have about the world. My hope is that the answers to my questions will serve the greater good. The more we learn about the world, the more likely it is we can solve the most pressing problems. Cures for diseases, medical advances and environmental protection procedures all come through the science of Biology. I plan to join research projects throughout my college career, allowing me to contribute my skills as well as be mentored by senior researchers. Most of all, Biology has inspired me to never stop asking questions.