Elijah Plattner

College Prep English

College Application Essay

October 11, 2016

## Forever Blue and Gold

When I was younger, I remember seeing the Missouri state FFA officers giving speeches to change the world around them. I wanted to be just like them. Little did I know the struggles and hardships that would come with that dream. In order to become a Missouri state FFA officer and help other students develop leadership skills, I understood that I would first have to become a leader myself.

I have been involved in FFA since I was two years old. My dad is an FFA advisor and I learned how important agriculture and FFA is through him. Once I became old enough to become a FFA member, I wanted be known as one of the best. It was not easy. Every time I would lose a speech contest or get second place in contest events, I would feel like I wasn't good enough, but I didn't give up; I pushed myself to become even better. As a result, I have been vice president of two different FFA chapters and have advanced to state and national contests.

All of the adversity that I had faced impacted me. I took on these tasks with a passion to improve them. In turn, this adversity made me better than I was before. I was able to help fellow members activities: camps, contests, conventions, and seminars. Whether it was helping a teammate understand the difference between a high-quality show heifer or one that could turn out offspring for a profit, I was given the opportunity to develop leadership qualities. I learned

that I am capable of more than even my highest expectations, and I learned that the only limitation stopping me is myself.

I have decided that I would like to continue furthering my leadership abilities and obtain my dream of becoming a state FFA officer. I will look for other opportunities to enhance my leadership qualities. I plan on going to college and getting a degree in animal science, making my childhood dreams a reality.