

I am currently a foreign exchange student attending my high school in California. It is a very enriching experience due to the great diversity of the state, and I can learn about new cultures. I am also making Americans aware of my Belgian culture by talking to them about it. There are a lot of differences between the two countries, Belgium and the United States of America, but one thing is sure, the person I am remains the same from one country to another. The leadership qualities are inborn in me. Whether it is my school or community, I always tried to use my leadership qualities effectively. In Belgium, I used to work at a grocery store. Last year, I was allotted as the fruit and vegetable department manager. Here I used my leadership qualities, made all the staff work together as a team, and preserved the balance in the needs of the group members of the team. Moreover, back in Belgium, I also used to sell sandwiches in the school cafeteria. I also volunteered in a nursing home, where again I got a chance to nourish my leadership qualities. Two years ago, I did an internship in journalism. This internship was because I was previously interested in sports journalism, but I changed my mind later on. During this year in the United States of America, I have learned a lot of new things about myself. Being alone in a foreign country requires you to develop new skills as it is necessary to cope with their culture and traditions. Thus, this is a very challenging way to grow faster.

During this year, I am not working, but still, I have joined many clubs in my High School. I am a part of the foreign exchange students club, and being there enabled me to share my Belgian culture and learn about other new cultures. I have also joined the Basketball team of Varsity High School. In Belgium, I was the captain of my Basketball team. As of now, I am in the United States of America, but still, I encourage my teammates back there in Belgium. I always encourage them to give their best and stay positive<sup>1</sup>. Here also, my leadership qualities helped me to build a strong team.

Introduction

Opening Sentence

Personal Background

Thesis Statement

Body Paragraph

Leadership involvement

Body Paragraph

Personal experiences

From country to country, everyone sees my leadership skills and ambitions differently. Compared to Belgium, the people of the United States of America are more open-minded and accepting. They consider my leadership skills as great quality and also encourage me to nourish them more with time. The other day I was having a conversation with my friends, and I told them that I wanted to join Michigan State University. They encouraged me by saying, “You will.” Again in the same week, my Economics teacher backed me up by saying, “You have to go to the University in the States.” Although these people have known me for a short time, they still managed to mark me as they already know my skills and qualities well. In the United States of America, people have understood that I am a perfectionist and ambitious.

The leadership qualities are innate in me. At my school, I used to be the leader of my class. I was able to recognize the strength and weaknesses of my group members. I always tried to engage my team members in work by maximizing their talents and skills. This is essential in making a meaningful contribution to the work, group, and community<sup>2</sup>. There is a need for strong control by some individuals. At the same time, other members may have a profound need that they should be appreciated for their services and time. Being a leader of my community, I was fully aware of my job to balance the needs of everyone. I also kept my sights focussed on objectives that needed to be achieved in order to move the group forward.

Another key aspect of my leadership style is teaching my team members about the difference between efficiency and effectiveness. According to the main difference between an efficient and effective leader, an efficient leader will engage those people in the task who will complete their work promptly. It is made sure by an effective leader that in order to complete the task, the person gets all the support they need. Efficiency takes less time as compared to effectiveness<sup>3</sup>. Thus any type of leadership aims to build up relationships and ensure that people

work together. Relationships and capacity can be built only by being patient with one another and supporting one another.

At Michigan State University's Broad College of Business, I will be able to nourish and learn more about leadership styles and qualities. I will also get the experience to learn about different leadership skills in depth and how to apply them to the world around me. I have planned to get admitted to a couple of Undergraduate programs of my interest at Broad College of Business. I am also eager to join Multicultural Business programs to get a better and broad insight into leadership skills in different businesses worldwide. Thus, I want to avail myself of all the opportunities to learn about great diversity at MSU Campus. I am also eager to join Multicultural Business Student's Organization to gain valuable leadership skills and develop the best career goal.

*Body Paragraph*

Goals and aspirations

Being a friendly person, I will always look forward to meeting and interacting with new students on campus. It will help me to learn about them and their culture that they will share. Apart from Broad College of Business, there are many other great schools at Michigan State University. I will also try my best to develop my good connection with other academics and intellectual interests students. Having been interested in management and business skills I need to be in good touch with such diversity.

Being an existing foreign exchange student from a country like Belgium, I would represent the best image of my country. I will work hard to spread positivity to thank you, Michigan States University, for having me. I want to give people a good impression of Belgium through me. I will be proud to be a future alumnus of the Broad College of Business, and I will shine the spirit of MSU wherever I live and work.

*Conclusion*

Reinforcement of writer's aspirations

End Notes

1. Grimm JW. Effective leadership: making the difference. *J Emerg Nurs.* 2010;36(1):74-77.
2. Avolio BJ. *Leadership Development in Balance: Made/Born.* Psychology Press; 2005.
3. Conger JA, Kanungo RN, Menon ST. Charismatic leadership and follower effects. *J Organ Behav Int J Ind Occup Organ Psychol Behav.* 2000;21(7):747-767.



College Essay