

Determination and self-motivation

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I handed my masterpiece to Alycia. She read my essay for about 15 minutes, crossed out words and 2 paragraphs, jotted a few notes on a book, and finally in slow motion looked at me through her black rectangle- framed reading glasses. She then asked, “ Why do you want to be a physician assistant?” I was not expecting this question from her. For a split second, I got thinking why she asking me this question. Had she not read why I wanted to be a physician assistant?, I asked myself silently. Apparently, my essay was not as brilliant as I had assumed it to be. For a brief moment, I become irritated, confused and angry.

After this episode of self-interrogation, I calmly told her why I wanted to be a physician assistant. She then asked me, “ What was the essay prompt?” I actually could not remember the exact words of the prompt and so I told her. She allowed me to use her office computer to print a copy of the essay prompt. She read the prompt and read my essay again. While she was reading the essay for the second time, I was adjusting my emotion because I knew I needed her help and input to make the essay better.

I paid attention to her while she read the essay for a second time. I realized that I talked about many personal experiences, but did not emphasize on why I want to become a physician assistant. I finally acknowledged why she had asked the questions that she had just asked. Her questions guided me to realize the mistakes that I had committed and correct them. Even though I felt vulnerable, intimidated, out my comfort zone and frightened during my first review session with Alycia, I was ready to come back for the next review.

To improve my essay, I have to be open-minded and recognize my weaknesses and strengths. After multiple visits to Alycia, I realized that I had

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learned a lot and there was a lot more that I needed to learn about essay writing. Even though my essay was bad, my determination and self-motivation allowed me to overcome the challenging situation and improve my writing skills.