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Reaching My Dreams In America

There are many important things in my life. Family, education, and religion are significant influences that make the person I am today. In my perspective, family brings happiness, education brings knowledge, and religion brings values.

Family is the most important part of my life. I was born in Vietnam in 1985, which was ten years after the Vietnam War. My father was a Vietnamese veteran and he was imprisoned in the Communist concentration camp from 1975 to 1985. After he was released, he reunited with my mother and five older brothers. Then, I came into the family picture. However, my father soon became handicapped after I turned several years old. In 1992, our family immigrated to the United States, leaving my eldest brother behind in Vietnam. My eldest brother was married and had a newborn child, so he wanted to stay with them. We arrived in Houston and lived here ever since. In 1997, my father died when I was twelve years old. I was only in sixth grade at that time. I lived with my mother until high school, and later moved in to live with my second eldest brother. My brother was more financially stable, and he wanted to take care of me until I graduated from college. He bought me a car, cell phone, computer, and everything else I needed for school. I really owe much financial and emotional debt to my brother, because without him, I probably would not have an opportunity to go to college.

In addition, education is the second most important aspect of my life. I attend school, because of my family values. My mother always says that when I go out to society, I will represent my family. My parents emphasize the importance of listening attentively, speaking politely, and acting righteously. When I attend school, my parents encourage me to study hard and do my best at all times. From 1992 to 2004, I attended Andersen Elementary School, Stevenson Middle School, and Dulles High School. I have always attended schools in Houston, because Houston is my home now. Now I am attending the University of Houston and

double majoring in Business Management and Marketing. I also have a minor in Chinese Studies. In elementary school, I struggled with learning English as a second language. In high school and college, I struggled with learning Chinese as a third language. I have learned the Chinese language for seven years now, and it is like an addiction or passion of learning so far. I have always been fascinated with the Chinese language and culture. I even have a collection of Chinese movies and music. In the future, I hope to go to China, and possibly do business over there.

Religion is the third most important aspect of my life. My family members have been Catholics for generations. When my family arrived at Houston in 1992, my mother immediately enrolled me at Holy Rosary Catholic School. At Holy Rosary, I started from Communion class all the way to Confirmation class, and learned the Vietnamese language from level 1 to level 6. The preservation of culture, language, and values are passed down from my parents to my brothers and me.

Family, education, and religion are great influences in characterizing the person that I am today. I can not imagine living without a loving family, a decent education, and a guiding religion. I strive to live a happy, loving, and fulfilling life with all the wonderful things that I have had, am having, and will have.