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West Point

During my lifetime, I've always wondered what I was going to be when I was older. It was always hard to decipher whether I really wanted something or if it was something someone was spoon feeding me. High school has helped me learn more about myself and realize what my aspirations were.

My freshman year, I joined a school musical. I didn't have to audition for it because I joined the school too late. The musical was called UrineTown and I did not have a lead role as they were all taken, yet instead I was an extra who sang and danced. The only issue with not having to audition for me was realizing I didn't have the ability to sing songs from a musical or just sing in general. I worked hard and practiced constantly to make sure my performance was up to par. When the performance was over, I realized how much I enjoy being on stage. I couldn't wait to perform again the next day; the feeling of being on stage was just so spectacular. The anxiousness caused my adrenaline to start pumping and I felt invincible. It was then that I knew I wanted to become an actress on Broadway some day.

The following year which was my sophomore year, I joined another school musical and got the role of a lead character. I played Jack from Into The Woods and it was absolutely amazing. I really saw myself acting in the future. Yet as time went on I started dreading going to rehearsals and I avoided it more than I should have. One day, I had a meeting for leadership club and only a handful attended so our teacher, Ms. Barker, mentioned an overnight trip to West Point the United States Military Academy. I automatically signed up to go since I thought it would be a great experience. My interest for performing peaked again since actual performance days were coming up pretty quickly. It's fair to say that we killed the show and that it was a

major success. A few months later, my trip to West Point was finally here. Little did I know it would change my view on my future forever.

When arriving to West Point, we were paired up with cadets and they showed us around and answered any questions we had. The next day I got to witness Projects Day at West Point otherwise known as one of the most stressful days for seniors. They all had to present projects they've been putting a lot of work and time into. Later on in the day, my cadet left me with another cadet and he took my friends and I to go and try the obstacle course. It was a great day with an amazing atmosphere and I absolutely dreaded going back home. I really enjoyed my time there. After going to West Point and actually seeing how it was, I realized that I wanted to go there and join the army. I no longer wanted to be an actress.

Coming to the realization that I want to go to West Point gave me new goals and a new drive to do better and to be better. That one night sparked new found motivation in me that I have never experienced before. The idea of being able to fight for the people in this country is amazing, especially if it means I'll get a great education and training. I know this will push me way past my comfort zone and I just enjoy challenges. It's crazy how something someone would see to be small, impacted me greatly.

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