



Scholarship Essay

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The Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program is designed to develop strong, capable young leaders by instilling discipline, responsibility, and various essential life skills. These skills are invaluable, not just for a future in military settings but also for everyday life. Over the course of my time in the program, I've gained leadership skills, organizational habits, and have also achieved significant personal growth—all of which will serve me well throughout my life. Of these, the three most important lessons I have learned are leadership through delegation, the importance of organization, and the value of personal development.

Leadership is one of the most important skills taught in JROTC. It's not just about being in charge; it's about guiding, supporting, and empowering others. In JROTC, cadets are frequently assigned leadership roles, ranging from leading a classroom to organizing events, which is where I first learned the importance of delegation. Leadership in JROTC is about getting the best out of each person by understanding their strengths and assigning tasks accordingly, rather than trying to do everything all on your own.

I learned this first-hand when I was promoted to Logistics Commander. As Logistics Commander I was tasked with managing all of our equipment and uniforms. Initially, I felt the pressure to oversee every detail myself. However, the longer I held the position, the more I realized that I couldn't manage everything alone. I quickly learned to delegate tasks, recognizing that trust in my team was the key to our success. By trusting others with specific responsibilities, I was able to focus on the bigger picture and ensure the event's

success. This experience taught me that leadership is about empowering others, guiding them towards a common goal, and creating an environment where everyone's contributions are valued.

Organization is another vital skill that JROTC has taught me, one that has impacted many areas of my life. Being part of JROTC requires constant attention to detail—whether it's organizing a corps event, balancing academic responsibilities, or maintaining physical fitness. In JROTC, cadets are expected to manage multiple responsibilities, and learning how to stay organized is the key to achieving success.

One of the ways JROTC helped me improve my organizational skills was through planning and execution of events. As Group Commander, I had to ensure that all aspects of the event were covered. Juggling all of these tasks required a high level of organization. To manage everything efficiently, I broke down the tasks into smaller, more manageable steps, creating detailed schedules and checklists. This process taught me that when you're faced with a complex project, breaking it into smaller parts makes it more achievable and less stressful.

Additionally, JROTC helped me improve my ability to organize my personal life. As a cadet, I was required to balance academic work, physical training, and extracurricular activities. Learning to prioritize tasks and utilize time efficiently was crucial. I started using calendars and planners to keep track of deadlines, physical fitness goals, and other commitments. With a clear plan in place, it was easier to manage my time

more effectively, which not only improved my performance in JROTC but also allowed me to excel in school and other activities.

I have also learned that organization is all about maintaining balance. In JROTC, there is a strong emphasis on fitness—both physical and mental. Physical health is a key part of being a well-rounded cadet, so I incorporated regular exercise into my daily routine. Organizing my schedule to include time for workouts, study sessions, and relaxation helped me to stay focused and perform best in all areas of life. By establishing good organizational habits, I have been able to stay ahead of deadlines, avoid burnout, and keep a clear mind.

Another life skill I gained from JROTC is personal development. JROTC provides a structured environment where cadets are encouraged to constantly challenge themselves, both mentally and physically. Through regular feedback, self-reflection, and goal setting, I've been able to grow as an individual.

Moreover, JROTC emphasizes the importance of personal accountability. As cadets, we are held to high standards of behavior, both within the program and outside it. We are taught to take responsibility for our actions, whether it's ensuring we show up on time for events or following through on commitments. This focus on accountability has helped me become more responsible in all areas of my life, from academics to extracurricular activities. I have learned to hold myself accountable for my decisions and take ownership of the outcomes as a result of those decisions, which has increased my confidence and self-respect.

JROTC has also instilled a sense of pride and purpose in me. It taught me to value integrity, respect, service, and excellence, and these principles have become a

guiding force in my life. Through various leadership roles and personal challenges, I've developed a strong sense of character and the ability to navigate difficult situations with confidence and grace.

The life skills I've gained through JROTC—leadership, organization, and personal development—have shaped me into a more capable and confident individual. Leadership has taught me to delegate and empower others, organization has helped me manage time and responsibilities effectively, and personal development has fostered resilience and accountability. These skills are essential not only in military life but also in every area for personal and professional growth. As I continue my journey, I know these lessons will remain with me, providing a solid foundation for success in whatever path I choose. JROTC has not only prepared me for future challenges but has also given me the tools to lead a balanced, purposeful life.

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