

To whom it may concern,

My name is Ta'shira Smith, and I am a senior at Adelanto High School. Next year, I will major in animal science to become a veterinarian. I am an independent student, and I support myself financially, and this scholarship will help fund my dream to become a veterinarian.

On June 27th, 2014, my mother, Tanisha Latrece Simpson, unexpectedly passed away from heart problems and pneumonia. I have no relationship with my father and no knowledge about his whereabouts. Thus, I have stayed with my sister, and I have been supporting myself through survivor benefits and government assistance. While mourning my mother, animals have been my home away from home. I had, at one point, found it difficult to connect to my peers due to the absence of my parents. Other people around me had normal households according to societal standards. This showed me that I was different and I had to carry out things differently than other kids around me. This brought me closer to animals. I connected to animals because they were a safe space; they always kept me company and provided me comfort when I was not at my best. I have grown to become an animal person and a very mature young woman, and now I hold myself to a higher standard than I used to. I am determined to become a person my mother would be proud of.

Over the last few years, I have been adapting to focus on myself and being the person I want to be in the future. After growing closer to animals, I decided that I wanted to become a veterinarian, and I am set on it. From depression and low grades freshman year to having amazing grades and maintaining the standards that I hold myself to, I have completely turned myself around. I have grown and flourished into an independent young woman, and i am now looking for the funds to pursue my dreams. I will stop at nothing to make myself and my mother proud. I want to be known as the student that made the best out of a bad situation.

In conclusion, the person I have grown into is very determined, and I am excited to take my next step in life. The scholarship, if i were to receive it, would aid so much in making my dreams into reality. Thank you so much for taking the time to take me and my story into consideration.

Sincerely,

Ta'shira Le'Anne Smith