

[UNV-100

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The student correctly adheres to GCU/APA style throughout the paper.

[My Father, My Role Model]

Simple title that identifies the subject of the paper.

[As the oldest of eight children growing up on a tiny farm in the poorest part of Ireland, my father knew few of the carefree joys of childhood. When he was not studying in the village's one-room schoolhouse, he labored in the fields and bogs from sunrise to sunset.] [After his father died suddenly, my father, who was then 18, decided to leave Ireland in order to find a steady job that could support his widowed mother and younger siblings. Packing everything he owned in a battered valise, he sailed for America—a journey taken by millions of people of every nationality] [who sought opportunity in a new world.] [In undertaking this risky journey, my father displayed personal strengths that influenced me,] [strengths similar to those possessed by other immigrants throughout history] [: courage, industriousness, and optimism.]

[As so many other immigrants who came to America before and after him, my father showed courage when he decided to leave his home to make a new life for himself in New York City.] [At first, he must have been intimidated by the size and pace of New York City is known. After all, the village that he left behind had only 200 or so people, all of whom he knew by name. They all spoke the same language, lived in thatched cottages, and practiced the same religion. Now he found himself alone in a bustling metropolis of more than 8 million people of every nationality, race, and creed.] [The courage my father displayed in starting a new life in a new world showed me how important it is to be bold and brave.]

Historically, [immigrants like my father have been industrious.] [Immigrant labor, primarily from China and Ireland, built the Transcontinental Railroad, for example. Italian laborers were largely responsible for building the Croton Dam, which created a reservoir that supplies New York City with water to this day.] [My father's first job, like those of most immigrants, included long hours and low pay. He worked from 2 p.m. to 2 a.m. six days a week, earning \$66 each week for his 72 hours of labor.] [Like the Chinese and Irish laborers who built the railroad, despite the freezing snows of the Sierra Nevada and the sizzling summers of the Plains, my father always worked hard.] In doing so, [he set an example that influenced me to develop a strong work ethic.]

[America prides itself on its optimism and "can-do" spirit, and the people who embody that more than any other are immigrants like my father.] My father left everything he knew and everyone he loved to come to a world where he knew not a soul. [Like other immigrants before and after him, he believed that the children he hoped to have would have a better childhood in America than he had in the old country.] [When the landlord would rap on his door to enforce the tenement's curfew and order him to turn off his light and his radio, he did not feel sorry for himself or give in to despair. Instead, he softly whistled his favorite songs and thought about how tomorrow would bring new opportunities for success and happiness.] [His optimism in the face of uncertainty and adversity inspired me to think positively, regardless of the situation.]

[Throughout the country's history, immigrants like my father have come to America with few material possessions but with hearts filled with courage, industriousness, and optimism—traits that have inspired and influenced me profoundly.] In fact, it is impossible to envision an America as vibrant, innovative, and prosperous as it is today without the contributions, large and small, of immigrants like my father. [Alexander Hamilton, for example, who came to America as an orphan from the West Indies, went on to become one of the founding fathers and the architect of our nation's financial system.] [Given the innumerable contributions of immigrants, it is time for all Americans to call on our government to enact meaningful reforms] that would [help our immigration laws reflect more clearly the spirit of the Statue of Liberty that welcomed my father, as it had so many other immigrants, to "the land of the free and the home of the brave."]

The student includes an effective hook that tells a brief story.

By comparing the father's journey to those undertaken by other immigrants, the student begins to add resonance to the essay.

The student incorporates resonance by comparing the father's strengths to those of other immigrants.

An effective topic sentence that supports the thesis and states the main idea for the paragraph.

A concise topic sentence identifies the second trait to be discussed and reinforces the father's similarity to other immigrants.

Personal example of the father's industriousness.

The concluding sentence explains how the student was affected by the father's industriousness.

An effective topic sentence that supports the thesis and states the main points of the paragraph.

Adds resonance by comparing the father's hopes for his children with other immigrants' hopes for their children.

It is often effective to incorporate a call for action into the conclusion.

The student provides interesting and relevant background information that leads smoothly to the thesis.

The student identifies the cause (the father) and the effects (the personal strengths that influenced the student).

This clear and concise thesis addresses the prompt, incorporates resonance, and identifies the main points.

The contrast described illustrates the enormity of the challenge undertaken, which confirms the father's courage.

Concluding sentence explains how the student was affected by the father's courage.

Historical examples of immigrants' industriousness.

An effective comparison that incorporates resonance.

Personal example demonstrating the father's optimism.

Concluding sentence explains how the student was affected by the father's optimism.

Restates the thesis using different words.

Historical example to support claim that immigrants have contributed to America's prosperity.

Final sentence appeals to readers' patriotism and broadens the intended audience to include "all Americans."