

Effective Leads

1. Dogs

They're compassionate, obedient, and brilliant. When you are grief-stricken, they can all of a sudden appear by your side. When you command them, they are outstanding listeners and follow through with what you tell them to do. More than anything, they are cunning and learn rapidly. What could I possibly be speaking about? If you said dogs, you are correct. I would like to have a dog more than anything else, and these are the reasons why.

2. Soccer #1

The wind blew gently as I stepped out onto lush green turf one Thursday afternoon at Anderson Snow Park. I concentrated on the ball and kicked with all my might. The crimson and white ball with its hexagonal pattern struck the net and the goalie was not able to stop it from zooming past her. That afternoon, I was playing my favorite sport, soccer, and these are the reasons why I enjoy it: it gets me in shape, I am able to work cooperatively on a team, and I can compete competitively on weekends.

3. Soccer #2

Three days a week, I go to my favorite hangout after school- Oakford Park. There, I listen to the helpful demands of my soccer coach, run the field, and effectively make goals. Yet I do so much more than just break a sweat. I learn about not putting myself first at all times, apply listening skills, and learn about teamwork first-hand.

4. Dad

He fought for what seemed like three endless years in the Vietnam War, feeling great pains of heartbreak as he was separated from his family. He got down on his knees at night and prayed with all his might. Several years later, he brought a daughter into the world and taught her about America's rich history. He set all priorities aside and put this daughter first as he prepared delicious breakfasts, read the comics with her, and helped her with science fair projects. Above everyone else, my father is my hero, and he has made a lasting impact on my life.

5. Writing

I relax in front of a sprawling oak tree with my turquoise light-up pen and leather-bound journal, craning to hear the numerous noises around me and writing intriguing stories. As I close my eyes for a single moment, the words come to life in my mind and I can envision myself in the middle of the action! Writing is my foremost hobby, and this is why.

6. Veterinarian

"There is nothing more amazing than helping people to feel better about taking care of their animals," my father told me one evening as I was asking him why he enjoyed being a veterinarian. I also desire to be a veterinarian in life, and this is why- you get to work closely with all kinds of animals, it pays decently, and you get a sense of satisfaction by helping people out.

7. Older Brother

Alvaro Martinez. You may not know him, yet when he was in high school, he was a tyrant on the football field. He commanded the action by scoring thirty-one touchdowns in one season. Besides that, he made Principal's List every quarter of school and went on to college to become a doctor. My older brother is most certainly an amazing role model.

8. St. Augustine

Founded in 1565 by Pedro Menendez de Aviles, St. Augustine has had a great affect on American history. The massive Castillo de San Marcos, constructed of strong coquina rock, still guards the city to this day. The St. Augustine Lighthouse, constructed in 1874, still illuminates the city on a daily basis with its fresnel lens. Last, Henry Flagler constructed three luxurious hotels that add to the city's splendor. I enjoy visiting America's Oldest City because it has a plethora of historical sites, it is just minutes from the Atlantic Ocean, and there are modern places to visit as well.

9. Cheesecake Factory

Stepping into the Cheesecake Factory, I honestly am in the restaurant version of heaven. As I read the menu, I can practically taste layers of moist, rich chocolate fudge cake filled with decadent chocolate chips. I scan the menu farther and read about shortcake topped with vanilla ice cream, fresh

strawberries, and tufts of whipped cream. Finally, I spot a photo of a silky chocolate cheesecake topped with a thin yet absolutely delicious layer of Belgian chocolate mousse. The Cheesecake Factory is my favorite restaurant because it offers a variety of foods on its menu, it has more than fifty kinds of cheesecake, and you never leave hungry.

10. SPCA

It is an ordinary Saturday morning, and you are at a loss for what to do. You are not faced with the perils of homework, you are in a helpful mood, and one of your most favorite hobbies is to work alongside animals. What should you do at a time like this?

- a. Go back to sleep (umm... but it's already 11:00 a.m.).
- b. Cook breakfast (that may be a decent idea, but you'll learn this has little to do with this paper).
- c. Decide to assist at the SPCA.

Well, you may have already guessed it... I would C. decide to assist at the SPCA because the animals know me there, I get to take some of the dogs on walks, and I get to clean out some of the animals' cages.

11. September 11, 2001

When you think about an important day in history, what comes to your mind? The one date that comes to my mind is Tuesday, September 11, 2001. Though I was quite young, the images of the stricken World Trade Center crumbling to the ground plays over and over in my mind like a bleak movie. The people running from the collision with looks of sheer terror on their faces and thinking about the tears streaming down their faces adds to the images. September 11 is an important day in American history because it changed some families forever, made us more cautious about our country's security, and started a serious war.

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