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“What Being Tall Means to Me”

To me, being tall is something I embrace and I am proud of. Although I have had instances in the past where I compared myself to other people and wished my height was not a defining characteristic of mine, I now know that the very thing I had wished to change for so long ironically made me realize just how important my height is to me. Being tall means I naturally have a commanding presence in social settings, I can continue to enhance my originality, and I can offer a unique perspective for others.

Being tall means I naturally draw people’s attention to my presence in any type of setting. It grants me the ability to be a role model for others and to lead by example. For instance, through my experience as a competitive ski racer, my height emphasizes my discipline, positive character, and supportive attitude when my teammates look to others for guidance. My ability to draw others’ attention to myself through my height allows me to set the example for them. Eventually, these characteristics of my personality influenced others on my team to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for everyone. Due to my height, my personal characteristics are highlighted when I stand out in a crowd.

My height as a defining characteristic of mine also enhances my originality. Throughout my life, I have constantly strived to improve my abilities, work hard to commit to both extracurricular activities and academic endeavours, and build others up along the way. As an example of this, last year I was able to successfully balance the rigorous full International Baccalaureate (IB) program and the intensity of my ski racing program. I would miss weeks of school to attend ski competitions while still simultaneously completing my school work by the given deadlines. At the end of the school year, I received the award for the highest academic average of 95% for my chemistry IB class. This demonstrates the exceptional nature of my experiences, which is furthered by my height because not only did I manage to achieve my goal for that year, I did so with the added exception of being tall. Overall, my height undeniably emphasizes and acts as a symbol of my determination to strive for exceptional standards.

Being tall also means I can provide a unique perspective on life and be empathetic towards the struggles of others. Due to my height, my life experience of wanting to change this characteristic for so long allowed me to become more aware of other people's personal struggles because I lived through a personal struggle myself. It is important to highlight that I now love my height for what it is, but when I was growing up I would always tower over my peers, which made my height a big insecurity for me. This life experience has helped me be more sensitive to the struggles of others.

My height means a lot to me because it has become a core aspect of my identity. It allows me to have a natural commanding presence in any environment, it emphasizes the originality of my life, and it makes me extra sensitive to the personal insecurities of others. Being tall taught me that my height was never something to be ashamed of or to shy away from, but rather quite the opposite. It taught me to recognize the contribution it has made to my life, and to view it as something to be accepted, cherished, and loved.