

I. My Personal Essay about my Italian heritage and ties

My grandfather has completed our family tree of Sicilian ancestors back to the year of 1727. I enjoy reading the story on my 2X great Papa Giuseppe. In 1863, Giuseppe was born in Termini Imerese, a town close to Palermo, Sicily. When he was 22 years old, 2X great Papa Giuseppe arrived in New York City. That was before Ellis Island.

The manifest of the ship shows that he traveled alone from Palermo to New York. He was listed as a fisherman and his final destination was Cincinnati, Ohio. Why would he come to Cincinnati? There were no family members living here to help him, he did not know English and obviously he could not be a fisherman in Cincinnati. Were there things that bad in Sicily that Giuseppe would move away from his family in Sicily and face so many uncertainties in Cincinnati? I am sure other Italian families helped him. I am so grateful he had the courage to come to America and start a new life. By selling fruits and vegetables on a cart in Cincinnati, he made enough money to make it possible for the rest of his family to later join him here. Many of our family produce businesses got their start from this simple little cart. Giuseppe was the first of a long line of generations to come which have endured all the way down to me. Because of what our family has accomplished, I am proud to say I am Sicilian/Italian.

Working at the Sacred Heart Ravioli dinners has shown me how Italians enjoy the work of sharing our wonderful Italian food with the community. It is great to see so many people standing in line to share in the fruits of our Italian heritage. I enjoy getting to Church early on Ravioli Sundays and breaking thousands of raviolis with my family members to feed our guests. It's long hours on my feet but fun to share this tradition

with my family. At the end of the day we all get to sit down together and enjoy the best meal I know of - raviolis and meatballs. I thank you Great Papa Giuseppe for teaching me perseverance, not being afraid of a challenge and the strength of family love and support.

II. Academic Achievements and Community Service

I am currently a Junior at Mercy McAuley High School and have achieved First Honors all four quarters my Freshman year 2019-2020 and all four quarters my Sophomore year 2020-2021 while taking Honors Level classes. Based on my academics I was selected a member of Mercy McAuley's Women Lead Business Group. Being in this group includes attending seminars, meeting with professional business people, hands-on training sessions and workshops. I have also been a member of the Varsity volleyball team my Freshman, Sophomore & current Junior year and have been ranked "Top 50 Libero/Defensive player in the country by Prep Volleyball, 2021". Verbally i have committed to play volleyball at The University of Louisville but will cover my expenses of attending. Volunteering at St. Antonius festival is also a fun thing for me to do.

III. My current and future goals as a student and after academics

I have verbally committed to play volleyball at The University of Louisville. I will pay for my college expenses. I will apply to get into their business school and strive to maintain a high-level GPA, similar to my high school GPA at 3.90% or higher, all while playing Division 1 volleyball. There is a mandated 3.00% GPA to stay in the business

school. I hope to study Finance and Marketing. My mother is a financial planner and a great saleswoman. I enjoy listening to her talk about her job and helping clients plan for their retirement and futures. It sounds like a very rewarding career that I want to pursue since I enjoy talking with and helping others.

A first generation Italian who "Made a Difference"

I decided to write my biography essay on Mr. Lee Iacocca, an American automobile executive. As I researched his life I was surprised to learn he created the minivan which was first called the "Magic Wagon". The minivan is the only family car I have ever known. Can't imagine my life without a minivan carrying my family and friends to countless soccer, basketball and volleyball games. Mr. Lido "Lee" Anthony Iacocca was a very successful business man. He was so grateful to the United States for his success that he was responsible for the 1984 restoration of Ellis Island, New York, where his parents immigrated in 1921.

Lido Iacocca was born on October 15, 1924 in Allentown, Pennsylvania, the son of Nicola Iacocca and Antonietta Perrotta from San Marco del Cavoti, Benevento. He earned a degree from Lehigh University and a Masters of Engineering from Princeton University. He was first hired as an engineer by the Ford Motor Company. His hard work and his ability to create the popular "Mustang" took him to the Presidency of Ford. But he was fired in 1978 from Ford after giving the company 32 years of his life. Within four months of being fired, he was given the chance of saving a failing car company, the Chrysler Corporation. This son of an Italian immigrant believed in his abilities and never gave up. He said one has to "be creative, use unconventional thinking and have the guts to carry it out". In order to save Chrysler he knew he needed a lot of money to fulfill his dream - the minivan. Mr. Iacocca felt deeply about his Italian roots and the importance of keeping family together comfortably in one car. One quote from Mr. Iacocca says it all "the only rock I know that stays steady, the only institution I

know that works is the family". He borrowed the largest amount of Federal financial assistance ever loaned (\$1.5 billion) to a private corporation and he paid it all back. Because of his efforts and determination, the most popular family car was born. He gave the U.S. the automobile it deserved - the minivan.

I most admire Lee Iacocca for his belief in family values, belief in himself and belief in the goodness of his fellow human beings. Over time Mr. Iacocca discovered that he was a much better salesman than an engineer. I would like to follow in his footsteps and study Business at the University of Louisville where I can learn to live out "a life of handwork, dedication and guts" to quote Lee Iacocca. I also plan to be the best Louisville volleyball player I can be, proud to travel the Country in Mr. Iacocca's "Magic Wagon".