

Taylor Ann Strange

Barren County High School

Profile of a Trojan

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Freshman year like most, I had no idea who I was or what I wanted to do in life. I was caught in the flow of everyone else's decisions that I couldn't see a vision of my future. I had no ambition or determination to find my own interests. During my years as a trojan, I've had many opportunities laid in front of me, which I decided to explore. Now as a senior, I know exactly who I am, what I want to do, and that I never want to go with the flow again. I want to immerse and stand out within a crowd. I now can apply my ambition and determination in everything I do. This change throughout my four years didn't just happen at the spur of the moment. I invested within myself and fostered the ability to have accountability, effective communication, and to reach skill and knowledge mastery.

### **Accountability in my Education**

Accountability has always been a big part of my life, it has followed me through my academics, and in all my leadership positions. When people say I am accountable, they are usually talking about the responsibilities I have, the quality work I have produced, and the accomplishments I have made. While this may be the part of accountability that is awarded, there is a part that not many people get to see. During my years as a trojan, I have gotten to be a part of the Barren County Area Technology Center, where I have completed 10 courses in the Hybrid Engineering Pathway. Everyday I want to improve in my future career, architecture. I use

accountability in all of my math classes, making sure I am caught up and understanding of what is being taught. This way, I can understand and comprehend the basics of what is required of my future education. As an engineer, I will have to use math in my daily work.

I use accountability when I fail. I make sure that I get back up and keep fighting after I have fallen short of what was expected. My junior year I competed in SkillsUSA for Architectural Drafting. At my regional competition, I had placed 2nd and while I still qualified for state competition, I was very disappointed with myself. I worked day and night improving my skills and holding myself accountable to my determination of placing first. I had many nights where I wanted to give up and accept that I wasn't the best, but I didn't. When the state competition was over, and I had put all my hard work into my design, I had placed first in Architectural Drafting. I was so glad I held myself accountable and didn't give up when I faced adversity.

As a part of me challenging myself to improve, I have wanted to test my limits and see what I could accomplish with my life during high school. I joined the early college magnet program. I have taken 6 AP classes, 5 dual credit college classes, and all honors level courses, strengthening my education development. I have held myself to a higher standard and have been accountable for all my grades and determination. After all these challenging classes, I have maintained the most prestigious level of GPA within the range of a 4.0-3.9 unweighted.

I believe accountability can make a difference in the lives of so many students. I have experienced the effects of being an accountable person and holding myself to a higher standard that ultimately benefits me. As a freshman, I would've never understood the importance of

obtaining this trait, but now as a senior I'm so grateful I've invested this within myself and my education.

### **Effective Communication**

During my years of school I have learned that being an effective communicator is very valuable. In September of 2022 when I was elected as BCATC SkillsUSA Chapter Secretary, my first ever leadership role as a sophomore, I knew I needed to break out of my shell and become a valuable member of our team. During that year, I learned how to express my ideas and discuss important issues to my team. In September of 2023, when I was re-elected as secretary, I was the only junior on our senior officer team. I was able to use my communication skills to contribute and develop new traditions in our club. That year I gained the confidence to run for Kentucky State SkillsUSA President. I had to gain support from my local chapter and officers, communicate to thousands of students, interview with state sponsors, and deliver my message on why I should be chosen.

In April of 2024, I was Elected as Kentucky SkillsUSA State President. This was the major turning point in my journey as a Trojan. I had gained knowledge and experienced the value of representing my community and state. September of 2024 I was re-elected to my final term as BCATC chapter secretary. During my leadership training for SkillsUSA in Washington DC, I had to use effective communication to advocate to legislators for funding of CTE programs within my technical school. KLTI- Kentucky Leadership Training Institute, is another testament to the communication skills I have gained. I had to facilitate information to a variety of schools in Kentucky, the duties and responsibilities of being a president and leader.

On top of all of these leadership roles, I was elected as my senior class vice president. This is where I get to listen to concerns from my fellow classmates, and use my voice and communication skills as a representative of my peers. I have advocated to teachers, counselors, principals, and even board members. My ambition and growth as a communicator has allowed me to use all of these skills to voice my opinions and create change in my school and community. This is only the first stepping stone in my life where I have engaged and learned the value of being a great communicator, this will provide me with confidence for my future endeavors that will require essential communication.

### **Skill & Knowledge Mastery**

Skills and knowledge are words I have used a lot throughout my life. I wholeheartedly believe that skills are essential to my everyday life. Skills are what can be used to improve my career, values, and image. During my time as a trojan, my skill sets have led my career. I was taught by my parents to have a strong work ethic, positive attitude, and determination. These are the assets that make me who I am, and make me driven for success at whatever I'm involved with. However, the skills I have obtained have been learned and mastered, these skills allow me to improve my knowledge and reflect on my work. During my time as a State President, Chapter Secretary, and Class Vice President, I have mastered the skill of leadership. I apply leadership to my education and this has contributed to my participation and understanding of difficult classes. I was selected as student of the month under the section: leadership. I was entered and selected by my principal for the gifted and talented program of leadership.

Through selection of my skills, I get to apply these to my personal and professional life, enhancing my ambition to become a successful worker. The club I am involved in: SkillsUSA, is

based around a framework consisting of skills that are essential to students who are wanting to become an employee. I have undergone many training sessions where I have gained the knowledge of why skill sets are so important to have. I have used these sessions to my advantage of preparing myself for a leadership role in my profession.

As an Engineering student, I relate this quote to my work and how others may perceive my work. “Intellectuals solve problems, geniuses prevent them.” This applies to the critical decision making skill I have to be able to apply to my knowledge mastery. Skills are behind the scenes of many successful prototypes I have conducted. To fully understand my work and apply it to my community, is a mastery that is very selective and complex. From freshman to senior year, I have developed these skills throughout my trial and errors, this will ultimately set me up for success in my future endeavors.

## **Conclusion**

I have invested in myself and my future career, which has fostered growth from my freshman to senior year. This has led me with my vision of attending Western Kentucky University School of Science and Engineering to further my education in Architecture. I want to use my leadership and communication skills to eventually own my own architecture firm and draft blueprints for houses and businesses that will stimulate economic growth in my community. Being a trojan has laid the foundation of my values and growth. I aspire to become a valuable asset to this world, and want to encourage others to use their voice to ambitions to succeed in whatever they shall choose. My profile of a Trojan is just one testimony to my rapidly growing life, and I hope to serve as an exemplary student of Barren County High School.

