

## Dreams: A College Essay

By Peter Kaminski

Ashen walls, decrepit wooden paneling, "Mickey Mouse" screen doors--this was our house beside the train tracks. Born into a family of little wealth, I grew up in a home that was far from glamorous. My mother was an underpaid journalist, my father a self-employed electrician, but we scraped by: living day to day from their determination. My father's main goal was to provide for the family, and he championed the phrase, "I will work harder." So he did.

Through dedication and perseverance, we moved up in the world. A quaint brick house with copper gutters and a basement became my family's pride and joy. Although my room was the size of a walk-in closet, our second home was a testament to my parents' relentless efforts to give me a better world. This was the house where my mother received her big promotion and my father earned his master's degree. This house meant safety, a better school district, and the security to play outside. This was the house that signified the importance of improvement, but we were not finished yet.

When I first moved into my current house, there was an underlying sense of age. Exotic parrot wallpaper lined the hallways, dilapidated shag garnished the stairs, and the smell of mothballs lingered within every room. But this was our home--the house with the spacious front lawn, the basketball goal, and the two-car garage. This was the fixer-upper my family had always hoped for and could now afford to repair. After years of remodeling, this house stood for all that we had

accomplished. This home means stability. It embodies a dream.

Over the years, I have watched my parents' ceaseless pursuit provide me with a world of opportunity. From house to house, I witnessed the formation of a dream and experienced its realization. My world has enabled me to dream beyond the confines of my surroundings, for I have seen the change that the pursuit of a dream can bring. My dream to become a software engineer is larger than Kentucky, with Silicon Valley as the goal. But dreams are not given; dreams are earned through sacrifice, early mornings, and a proactive mindset. Although achieving my dream will be challenging, the evolution of my world has instilled me with a tenacity to overcome obstacles. Because of my world, I know I can succeed.