



Sophomore Scholarship Winner



Olivia Ballanoff

Grade:	Sophomore
Major:	Elementary Education
Hometown:	Cheyenne, Wyoming
Synergy Classes:	Globalization in Everyday Context
Goal after College	To teach in a school with a class full of second graders

Excerpt from Essay

What motivated me to go to college was my parents getting divorced. When my parents got divorced my mom struggled to take care of me and my little brother. She had been a stay at home mom for over twelve years and didn't have a lot of money of her own. My mother went to college and never finished her degree. Since she didn't have a degree, she could not get a real job to

support herself or her kids. I remember a large portion of my childhood struggling to pay for things, because she could not apply to jobs that were much above minimum wage. She sometimes had a hard time paying for things and relied a lot on social programs to make sure me and my brother had food. I decided to go to college and get a degree so one

day I could support myself without the reliance of anyone else. What motivates me is the need and desire to be able to be in control of my life. Money has been a large struggle in my life. A degree gives me tools to not struggle, to grow, and to make something with myself and a career.