

Throughout my life, my Portuguese heritage has helped develop me into the person I am today. My Portuguese heritage is the reason why I have such a close family and I take great pride in that. For example, for every World Cup my whole family will gather to watch Portugal play and cheer on Cristiano Ronaldo. My grandmother took care of her mother when she was old and my mother did the same for hers. I will take care of my mom just as she took care of her mother. Some of my fondest memories of growing up were because of my heritage. I remember learning how to speak Portuguese with my Mom and Grandma. I was so fascinated every time I learned a new phrase and was eager to learn more. Every other Friday we would have traditionally made chorizo and linguica, my favorite meal. My mother would make a big boiled dinner and we would eat with great joy. On rare occasions, my mom would make bacalhau. Possibly my favorite part of my personal development from my heritage was going to my grandma's house. She grew up on the Açore islands of Pico and Terceira and would tell us of how beautiful Portugal was. She told us stories like how she would cook bread in the ground of the volcano on the island. My grandmother worked as a house cleaner her whole life and she gave whatever money she made to her children so that they could have a better life. This selflessness and dedication is something that my grandmother made sure to instill in me. This is possibly the greatest way my heritage has helped develop me into the person I am today. The Portuguese people are extremely hard workers and this exemplifies me.

My Portuguese heritage has already begun to shape my future. At the University of Florida next year, I plan on taking courses in the Portuguese language so that I can be a fluent speaker. This will help me for the job I am going to pursue, the foreign ambassador to Portugal. I have always wanted to be a politician or be involved in Government and being the ambassador to Portugal would incorporate two of my passions: my heritage and my profession. Outside of

my profession, my heritage will heavily affect my family. I will keep the traditions that I grew up with and pass those onto my children. I will also keep the closeness and importance of family that is so stressed in my Portuguese heritage.

The Scholarship Committee should know that I am an extremely hard worker. I put extra effort into everything I do including sports, academics, and with the relationships I have with others. Any person who knows me will describe me as a very caring and hardworking person. Much of this is because I was bullied in middle school. Instead of letting it destroy me, I used it to my advantage. I always try to be a friend to everyone and possess a desire to succeed in everything I do. If awarded this scholarship, the committee will not be disappointed.