

JADA HARLEY

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Welcome to my portfolio! My name is Jada Harley and I am an honors student here at Minnesota State University Mankato. I am planning to major in Biomedical Science (Pre-Med) and minor in Spanish. After my time here in Mankato I plan to attend a medical school and fulfill my lifetime dream of becoming a Pediatrician.

Mission Statement: I will push myself to work hard and accomplish all my big and small goals in life and continue to excel in academics throughout my years in school.



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Hello, I'm Jada!


I was raised in a city called Monticello, MN. I am currently attending Minnesota State University Mankato as a pre-med student intending on majoring in Biomedical Science and minoring in Spanish. After I finish my time here in Mankato, I plan to attend a medical school. My dream is to have a career as a pediatrician. I love kids and I have always wanted to be working in the medical field. I hope to continue learning new things and to grow as a person everyday!



Mission Statement: I will push myself to work hard and accomplish all my big and small goals in life and continue to excel in academics throughout my years in school.

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These are my learning plans which describe my plan which plan out how I will reach all of the three competencies over my years at MNSU.



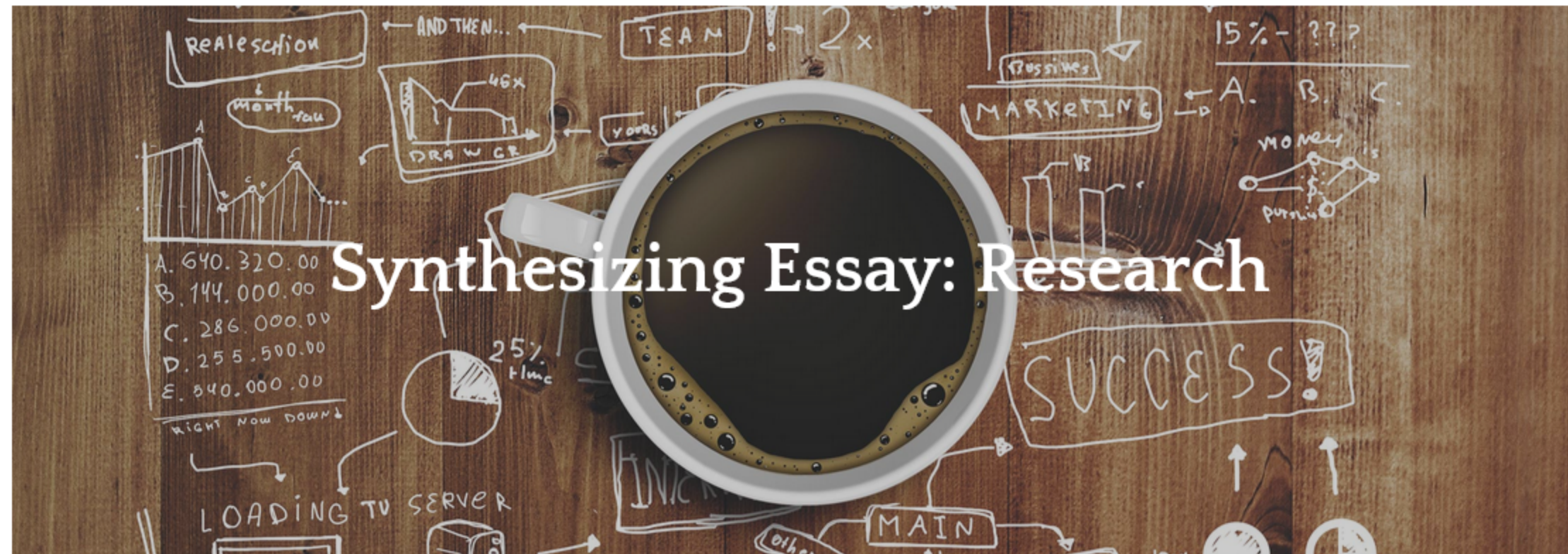
Synthesizing Essay: Leadership

Growing up I always thought of leadership in one way. I thought that in order to be a leader, you needed to be a literal leader of a group. It never occurred to me that leadership can look different for every person. Throughout my years at Minnesota State University, Mankato, I have found out the type of leader I am and in which ways I lead best. This has in turn, helped me to make my own leadership philosophy that I use almost every day. My leadership philosophy is all about showing that you care about what you're doing and who you are doing it with. By showing you're interested and care about what you're doing, you help to gain the trust of those who you are leading.

One of the very first experiences I had finding my leadership style, was in my Honors First Year Experience class. In this class, we did multiple activities that helped us start to find who we were as leaders. The activity that helped me the most, was writing my *leadership essay*. This essay allowed me to take each of the activities we did involving leadership and reflect on what type of leader I was. I turned out to be an authentic and extroverted leader and an upholder. This was completely new information for me because I had never put any thought into my leadership style.

By knowing the type of leader, I was, being a leader became a more comfortable experience. I knew that I lead in a certain way, and that, that was okay. One situation where I was really able to use my leadership style was while *training new employees* at my job. I was able to use my style of leadership combined with what I observed with other staff and train new staff members. Another experience I had using my leadership style was in my *research group*. I was one of two students working on this specific research project and the other student had one year of experience in the lab. It was important in this situation that I knew my own leadership style, but that I also knew how she led in order to work together efficiently.

One of my most recent experiences involved observing a leader in my life and coming up with my own *leadership philosophy*. I chose to interview my boss for a project in an honors course and through interviewing her and working with her the past two years, I was able to see her leadership style. I observed her leadership style and used that as a "template" for my own leadership philosophy. My philosophy is one that I will use consistently in the future. As a pediatrician, it will be important that I gain the trust of my patients by showing I care about their health and well-being and my leadership philosophy does just that.



As a Biology major, research is a critical learning experience. Before coming to Minnesota State University Mankato, I had little-to-no experience in a lab setting and no experience at all with research. In hindsight, being a part of the honors program brought me closer to research which is one of the best decisions I've made in my college career. My research experiences will help me in medical school and in my career as a Pediatrician.

My first experience learning about research was in my FYEX-Honors course, where we dedicated several classes to discussing different aspects of research. This experience helped me to reach information literacy levels. At the end of the unit, I wrote a [research essay](#) about the importance of research in many different fields. I was able to find outside information about the importance of research and use that information in my paper. That paper gave me an outlook on the significance and requirements of research, and I was able to use that information to help me write a [lab report](#) in my Biology 105 course. For this lab report I discussed the four organic macromolecules and how we can test which macromolecules are in certain foods we eat. This required me to do work outside of lab where I found scientific articles of other's research. I used the information I found useful and combined it with the data I found in my tests to synthesize this lab report.

The lab report provided me with a good base of how to find outside information and incorporate it with my own data. I used these techniques again when I wrote my [final project](#) for my Spanish 210w course. For this project, I chose to write about a company in Mexico that makes bioplastics. I had to take my knowledge of the country of Mexico and combine it with lots of outside research about this company and bioplastics and create this project. There was a lot of information on bioplastics, so it was important to find the best articles for my project. This involved me sorting through tons of opinions pieces about whether or not bioplastics are a realistic option. I put together multiple opinions to help form my own final conclusion/opinion for the project. This project helped me achieve information synthesis in the research competency.

My junior year at MSU, I got involved with a research lab group run by Dr. Cohen. In this lab I was able to enhance my lab skills, my skills in reading scientific papers, and even learn how to put together a poster for the URS. All of my experiences in this lab group helped me to achieve original research and dissemination of results in the research competency. A requirement for our lab meetings is to present a [scientific paper](#) related to our specific research. My research partner and I read a scientific paper and made a PowerPoint of the hypothesis, materials/methods, and the main results and conclusions. This led us to think about how this paper could relate to what we are researching and how we could possibly apply it to our research. One of my favorite parts of being a part of a research lab has been presenting our research findings at the URS. This allowed us to combine all of our data and findings and share it with people from multiple different departments. This experience also helped me to learn how to combine all of our data into a much shorter, easier to understand summary. My experiences in research will help me tremendously when I go to medical school as well as when I start working in a hospital. I will now have the ability to understand how research works and use that ability to read others' research on advances in medicine and use that knowledge when assessing patients.



Global Citizenship is a term that I had never heard before I started the Honors Program here at MNSU. When I first heard about it, I assumed it had to do with simply speaking another language, but it is so much more than that. It's about learning about your own culture and the culture of so many others around the world. Global Citizenship is also about learning how culture relates to individuals and how you can better understand other cultures. Though this competency was the most difficult to wrap my head around, I've learned so much on the importance of it.

As a Spanish minor, I knew right off the bat that learning a second language would help me in this competency. In my Spanish 201 class, I was able to reach levels one and two of communication through my [final project and presentation](#). I was able to research and take what I knew from a Spanish speaking country and talk about the different practices in this country. I also took my experiences from visiting a different Spanish speaking country (Mexico) and compared that culture with the one I researched (El Salvador). This taught me a lot about how the language is the same but can be used so differently in different cultures.

Freshman year I had no idea what I could've possibly done in my past that fit this competency besides taking Spanish courses. I learned right away that I had actually had another awesome experience that fit well with this competency. When I was still in high school, I wrote an [ethnography](#) about the culture of Karate. I was able to do research on it, observe and participate in classes and even interview the instructor. Throughout this experience, I was able to learn so much about the "norms" and some practices in this culture which helped me reach levels one and two in Knowledge and Understanding.

For me, it's easier to look at other cultures and talk about things I've learned about that culture, but it's much harder to explore my own. I know which cultures I belong to, but it's hard sometimes for me to reflect on what that really means. While writing a [critical incident journal](#) for an Honors course, I was able to consider my own culture and the differences and similarities of my culture verses others which helped me fulfill levels one and two in self-awareness.

One of the ongoing experiences I have had with global citizenship is at my job. I work as a Direct Support Professional at a group home where four ladies with disabilities live. I help them with everyday tasks, routines, and community outings. While working here, I have learned so much about the community and culture of individuals with disabilities. I was able to compare it to the culture of those without disabilities to those with them. I found that, of course, it is important to remember those of other cultures, though they may differ from you, are still human and want to be treated as such. I interviewed my boss about our job and some of the difficulties surrounding this type of job, and after a [reflection of this interview](#), I was able to reach levels three and four of knowledge and understanding, self-awareness and level three of communication.

Global citizenship has helped me to acquire skills that I did not have before. Skills including how to understand and respectfully learn about other cultures. It also taught me how to step back and reflect on my own cultures and the importance of them to me. By having this insight on Global Citizenship, I will be able to use my experiences when applying to medical schools or talk about my experiences while interviewing for medical schools. In the future as a Pediatrician, knowing and understanding different cultures will be critical in having great patient care.