

Hello my name is Terrell LeFevre, this is my essay about my academic life with Epilepsy, and how it impacted my career goals. I've had Epilepsy affect my life since eight grade and honestly it was a struggle getting used to, I don't know if I ever did. I was made fun of and isolated for being weird while my seizures weren't in control. However through this it did help confirm for me what I wanted as a career in the future.

Academically Epilepsy did slow me down a bit at first. I was always missing classes, always racking up absents by staying in hospitals and being home sick. However that didn't stop me from getting an education, I had a home tutor and got my work done so I wouldn't fall behind. I kept my wits up and when I came back I reached high honor and built up a good reputation for myself that wasn't the weird seizure kid. Going through all this though and being in and out of hospitals definitely helped me realize what I want to pursue as a career. It taught me that I would be best as a nurse. The idea of being a nurse sounds really good to me, a pediatric emergency room RN to be exact. Being in there so much I know what an important job it is and how much joy can be brought through it when done right. So I want to do it right and provide that joy.

I would like to say, Epilepsy doesn't define you. Don't let it hold you back and don't make it be who you are. You can still do what you want to do and be who you want to be. Do not be ashamed of yourself, do not live your life thinking of only it. I would advocate for others like myself by telling schools the proper way of handling a case like this, not as a nuisance, but just as another kid who maybe needs more help like a tutor. In the hospital I would treat them equally and not like a rare case, and care for them the way I would've wanted to be cared for. My epilepsy was a hurdle I may not ever get over, but I have made it through with the help of friends

and family. I hope anyone else who has it can do it too. Through this disability however I learned how strong I truly am, and helped me realize my career goal. This is how I was influenced by Epilepsy, Epilepsy is still with me but doesn't stop my life.