

Why Medicine Essay Example 2

Personal Health Experience

Illustrative example — personal illness used to demonstrate clinical insight, not as motivation.

State university · Neuroscience · GPA 3.76 · MCAT 512 · Accepted: Oregon Health and Science University

Why medicine essay — full essay with paragraph-level annotations.

Essay

At nineteen I was diagnosed with an autoimmune condition that took fourteen months and four specialists to identify. During that period I had appointments where the physician spent six minutes with me and appointments where the physician spent thirty. The outcomes were not correlated with the time. They were correlated with whether the physician was asking about my symptoms or about my life. The one who identified the pattern that led to a diagnosis was the one who asked what I did between flares, not just what happened during them.

I do not want to become a physician because I was sick. I want to become a physician because I learned something in those fourteen months about what the job actually is. A correct diagnosis is not the product of enough data points. It is the product of asking the right questions, and the right questions require understanding the person well enough to know which questions are right. That is not a technical skill. It is a relational one, and it is not taught separately from clinical medicine. It is clinical medicine.

I want to practice rheumatology because autoimmune conditions are where that relational skill matters most. The conditions present differently in different people, they change over time in ways that cannot be predicted from the initial presentation, and the patients who manage them best are the ones with a physician who understands them well enough to notice when something has shifted. I want to be that physician.

Annotation

The non-correlation finding

The observation that outcomes correlated with type of question rather than time spent is a clinical insight, not a personal complaint. It transforms the patient experience into an argument about how medicine works.

The reframe

Paragraph two explicitly rejects the sentimental framing of illness as motivation. This is the most important move in the essay. Admissions committees read hundreds of essays that use personal illness as a reason to pursue medicine. This one uses it to make an argument about what the job requires.

Relational skill as clinical skill

Describing relational skill not as a supplement to clinical medicine but as clinical medicine itself is the essay's central claim. It is both accurate and rarely stated this precisely.

Why rheumatology

The specialty choice follows logically from the argument in paragraph two. The essay does not need to explain the connection because the reader has already made it.

AAMC competencies demonstrated

Service orientation, critical thinking, self-awareness, commitment to learning, interpersonal skills.