

Alexander Tiso's College Essay

Most of my friends love fast food and so do I; however, they do not have an Italian-born parent who opens their eyes and exposes their palates to such delicacies as Haggis, Foie Gras and Escargot. These dishes are very interesting, but I still love my fast food, especially Qdoba. Much to the chagrin of my Italian-born father, I am one with the "Qdoba Family." I tell everyone that I have three homes: my residence, the pool, and Qdoba. The manager and the staff recognize my face when I walk in and order the same thing every time: "a bowl."

You always need a base, and for me, it is white rice. Just like rice, sometimes I like to rest after a slow simmer. My life is full of exciting and interesting things, but sometimes I have to take a step back and relax. I love to sleep in on the weekends and then lay in bed and catch up on some TV shows.

There is another side of me that can be a "social butterfly" which makes me "the cheese" of the bowl. In my opinion, cheese makes everything better! Queso is amazing; you can put liquid cheese on anything, and it works! Just like queso, I can adapt to any situation, an ability that is especially prominent when it comes to interacting with new people. I get this trait from my mom who is equally outgoing and also wears a perpetual smile.

Not only can I conform to any situation, I feel that I really do add to the "vibe" of the room. Like me, guacamole always brings "something else" to the party. You have chips? Add guac. Got pita bread? Make guac. You made eggs and toast? Get the guac! I add another perspective to any conversation or setting. I love to debate topics and issues with friends who appreciate my unique perspective. Especially in my science and engineering classes, I always try to find a new and different way to solve a problem or discover the unknown. Isn't that what science is all about?

There are times when I am like sour cream, a straight-forward ingredient that tempers the other extreme flavors. Believe it or not, I also have a serious side to me. There is a time and place to be deep in thought, such as at school or work. I try hard to obtain good grades. I take my work as a lifeguard seriously. While I know how to have a good time, I also understand the importance of being responsible and trustworthy. I have been striving to demonstrate leadership qualities and professionalism, so that I can soon be appointed head lifeguard.

All of the parts to my Qdoba bowl are unique in their own ways; however, the final ingredient is probably the best way to describe me. Pico de gallo is not just one ingredient; it consists of tomatoes, onions, jalapenos, and cilantro. Like pico, I am a blend of many flavors instead of being defined by just one ingredient. This flavorful garnish mirrors the many aspects of my personality.

Whether I am enjoying escargot or a Qdoba bowl, I appreciate the fusion of all the flavors and dig in heartily declaring, "Mangia!"