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Moral Choice Essay

As the youngest of three siblings, I have spent the majority of my young life following in the footsteps of my two older brothers. Whether it was full contact ice hockey or building a fort, I could be counted on as a fully committed participant. Once in High School, my middle brother, Noah, expressed an interest in attending West Point. At first, the idea of joining the military seemed abstract and distant, but quickly became a real possibility. It came as no surprise when I too, expressed an interest in attending West Point. As Noah's dream took shape and he entered the academy, my application began. I visited the academy, attended classes with my brother, and spoke with admissions about my Army future. My parents were thrilled at the possibility of having two children attend such a prestigious institution. They marveled at the idea that not just one, but two of their children would seek to selflessly serve their country.

As I delved deeper into the nomination process, I realized that Noah's dreams and mine had diverged. I no longer desired a career in the military. The uncertain realization that I could forge my own path had begun. Telling my family was frightening simply because I thought they would be disappointed in my dramatic shift. To my surprise, my family was supportive and realized that, like Noah, I needed to pursue a path that I was passionate about. In addition, we all recognized that professions such as the military require a level of commitment that far exceeds most. Although we both sought to serve the greater good, I now sought the civilian route, instead, choosing to serve humanity within the medical profession. This decision positively changed my life, and hopefully the lives of others in some, yet to be determined, way. Although my original thoughts had changed, Noah's decision to attend West Point only further motivated me to bring my medical and educational dreams to fruition. It's nerve wracking having a family member in the military because their safety is at risk, but there's always the certainty that if anything were to happen, medical professionals would be there to help.

I realized that what I chose to do in life should be equally impactful to my brother's vocation. I continued to immerse myself in rigorous college level courses such as Chemistry, Biology, Calculus, Algebra, and Trigonometry. I enrolled in a Leadership class, where lessons concerning the characteristics of a leader were taught and guest speakers were brought in to share their stories about perseverance, determination, and bravery. I wanted people to feel inspired, the same way I do, when he speaks about his future in the military, so per my persistent requests, Noah, who had already been at West Point for a year, came in to speak. I am immensely proud of Noah and his selfless actions, yet despite my years of following in his footsteps, I have come to realize that we must each develop our own distinctive character.