

Prodigy Writing Contest

Can't, don't, won't, shouldn't, and no are all words that one learns at such an early age to help us understand what can and cannot be made possible. With these words instilled in our head, it is easy to be fearful of never reaching the fullest potential of our goals. However, the difference for prodigies is that the negative words being implanted in their heads do not hinder them from reaching their dreams. This stamina fuels them to become the best without giving into doubt and uncertainty. Webster's dictionary best defines a prodigy as "an extraordinary, marvelous, or unusual accomplishment." It is a difficult task to achieve because there is a lot of time, drive and dedication needed in order to fulfill the powerful title of being a prodigy. I feel that I have the willpower and perseverance infused in me to become the next prodigy.

The hall of fame gives us examples of prodigies who have gone above and beyond others in their sport. After reviewing many honorees, a few models that stand out due to their prodigy characteristics include Michael Jordan, Walter Ray Williams, and Nolan Ryan. When mentioning one of these individuals', the names of the sports they played and their major accomplishments come to mind. After reviewing each of these individual's successes, I ponder the stories that help describe how the events in their life defined them as prodigies. One has to wonder if they were simply born to play these sports or the combination of destiny and hard work to develop their skills. I believe that at birth these individuals obtained talents that others did not possess; however their hard work defined the prodigy in them. A perfect example of this thought is portrayed in Michael Jordan's success through life. Jordan was cut from his high school basketball team, but instead of calling it quits he went on to win six NBA titles.

While growing up my dad had always stressed the quote, "Work twice as hard as the next person." This quote translates into obtaining as much knowledge about the game as possible and using that information to help increase your skills. I feel that I am going to become a prodigy because of my long days, work ethics, determination, will power, passion, and love for the game. A perfect example of someone working harder than the next person is Early Anthony because for the longest time he was considered the best bowler of all time with the most titles. History was then changed when Walter Ray Williams captured a whopping 47 titles. Williams worked twice as hard as Anthony and ended up claiming the most titles. It is because of this example I listen and live by my dad's quote.

I closely relate to Michael Jordan because I am the type of person that has been consistently challenged throughout my life. Like Jordan I take a challenge head on and am quick to get up and keep trying. A prodigy holds the key for mastering their sport and this comes with managing all the trials and tribulations that come across their paths. Since I understand that hard work is extremely important in becoming successful in life, I make it a point to work hard at everything I do. I want to be the best at bowling and bowl anywhere from 150-200 games a week to work on my game. When you hear about the crazy amount of games you do not realize that most of these are not kept for score but instead used for drills. These are not just physical drills like working on balance or arm swings but mentally as well. I would use video analysis with my coach to see where I can improve my game. This goes to show that when my dad told me to work twice as hard as the next person I took him very seriously.

Dedication and passion for the sport is shown through hard work. America's philosophy on life is that they want everything done at lightning speed paces and the endless days of hard

work and dedication at times seems impossible to follow in this society. I however see the light at the end of the tunnel and will not stop until I am no longer in the dark. I have taken dedication and passion to a new level. I put my sweat and blood into bowling and even focus on bringing my game to a higher mental level by trying to learn everything I can about the sport. I did this by going to PBA events to talk to pros and representatives, as well as learning how to drill my own bowling balls. I succeeded in my studies and got a job working for a much respected pro shop in the bowling community. This opportunity allows me to be in a bowling alley to learn the game from every angle. The knowledge gain gave me chance to bring new aspects to my game; fueling the passion to keep me dedicated to my game.

One of the final traits that defines a prodigy is the will power they have for the game. The old saying "if there is will there is a way" expressed that if someone wants something in their life, they will not stop until it is completed. If one has the will to be great, the destiny to be great it will happen one way or another. My will is not to stop until I am known as someone who is extraordinary, marvelous, and a prodigy in the sport of bowling.

If someone was to ask me today what makes me the next prodigy, I would reply with all the qualities I possess and how I plan on using them until my picture is sitting in the Hall of Fame next to Walter Ray Williams. My love for the game and the passion that has engulfed my mind and body will lead me to the legacy of a prodigy. In my head when I hear the words can't, won't, shouldn't, and no pertaining to my life, I will forever change those words to can, will, should, and yes.