

SMDPA Elizabeth Tilley Howland Scholarship Essay

The pilgrims valued faith, discipline, and perseverance through adversity. They valued hard work and determination. They overcame many obstacles in their pursuit of a better life. Their values drove them to overcome the challenges they faced and are relatable to my life in many ways.

The pilgrims traveled across the Atlantic to what is now the United States to escape England. They were searching for religious freedom and a better life. They had no idea what they were going to encounter on their journey. They did not know if the journey would be easy or hard. They had to rely on their faith in God that they were moving on to a better place. I can relate to this because I struggled in high school. I had trouble in social situations, making friends and communicating my thoughts accurately. Like the pilgrims, I am going into an unknown situation by going to college for the first time in a few weeks. I am aware that college courses are much harder than high school courses. I am excited to learn about meteorology, but am unsure how hard college courses will actually be. I am relying on my faith and hope that my life is going to change for the better. I am venturing into the unknown and starting a very difficult science major. I have faith, just as the pilgrims had faith they could cross the Atlantic, that I can accomplish my dreams and become a meteorologist.

Weather has been an interest of mine since a young age. I like studying weather patterns and analyzing them to ultimately help others prepare for the upcoming climate. I study and practice the maps and forecasting. I have been wrong about forecasts in the past. That did not stop me from continuing. I find reading radar quite interesting and a puzzle to solve and unlock. When I read about the extreme weather and situations that the pilgrims faced, I found their stories quite interesting. The pilgrims encountered many obstacles. When they were at sea, the pilgrims encountered rough weather which included hurricanes, winter storms, severe

weather, and very rough seas. Since they didn't have the technology to track weather like we do now, the Pilgrims were going into these massive storm systems with very little intel on how bad they actually were. Many of the pilgrims became very seasick and could not do their part on the ship. The pilgrims who were not sick helped man the ship and ultimately they were the reason the group made it across the Atlantic. I found their hard work and determination inspiring.

Some of the pilgrims on the Mayflower were able to survive the trip across the Atlantic and survive the first few very harsh years in the new world. They had barely any food, people were getting sick and they were attacked by Native Americans who did not want them there at all. The pilgrims' story of determination and how they survived many years of pain and suffering relates to my life. I have overcome a lot of challenges in life but in the end I was able to come out stronger and better as a person just like the pilgrims crossing the Atlantic and surviving those first very harsh years in the new world. Things do not always come easy to me. In the past, it would frustrate me but now I can overcome it and use it as motivation to do better.

My lineage has been traced back to John Howland who was on board the Mayflower. John started out as an indentured servant in England and later in life became the executive assistant for Governor John Carver. I enjoyed learning about John Howland and how he came from absolutely nothing, worked hard to get himself on the Mayflower and eventually became a very successful man. If John Howland was able to better himself, it gives me hope that I can as well.

I find the pilgrims' story of hard work and determination inspiring and motivating. If my ancestors can travel across the Atlantic, venture into the unknown and overcome incredible obstacles and forces of nature; I can certainly do the same.

Resources:

<https://www.mayflower400uk.org/education/the-mayflower-story/>

<https://www.history.com/news/mayflower-compact-colonial-america-plymouth>

<https://themayflowersociety.org/>

<https://www.history.com/topics/colonial-america/mayflower#the-mayflower-journey>

[Plymouth Colony - Location, Pilgrims & Thanksgiving \(history.com\)](#)

Of Plimoth Plantation by William Bradford