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Mayflower Essay 2024

The Mayflower Pilgrims who landed at Plymouth in 1620 were guided by ideologies that have deeply influenced American culture and continue to appear in today's society. The values of perseverance, self-governance, community, and a quest for new opportunities that they all shared can be seen within my 21st-century life and my ambition to attend Purdue University and become a rocket scientist. By taking to heart the principles that guided the Pilgrims and relating them to modern goals and aspirations, it becomes clear how resonant these values are.

One of the most significant values seen within the people of the Mayflower is perseverance.

By facing the harsh and sometimes violent unknown of the New World, they displayed extraordinary resilience and determination. The Pilgrims overcame a grueling transoceanic journey, a brutal first winter, and countless other hardships to establish their new society (Bradford, 1856). This spirit of perseverance is crucial in the field of space travel, where setbacks and failures are common. The development of new technology for rockets often involves large amounts of trials and errors before achieving any sort of success. Learning from these challenges and remaining determined to progress is an essential part of the scientific process. As I prepare to study at Purdue University, I am inspired by the Pilgrims' tenacity. Their example reinforces my commitment to overcome obstacles and keep going in my pursuit of scientific discovery and innovation.

Self-governance is another core value that the Pilgrims brought with them, most notably demonstrated through the Mayflower Compact. This agreement established a framework for democratic governance and collective decision-making (Philbrick, 2006). The idea that individuals could come together to form a government based on mutual consent and equality was revolutionary for the time period, and a foundation that led to the formation of America. This principle of self-governance is now deeply embedded in modern democratic societies and is vital in the collaborative environment of scientific research and engineering. At Purdue University, teamwork and cooperative efforts are fundamental within all of their science and engineering programs, not just rock science. Projects in this field often require interdisciplinary collaboration, where every team member's input is valued and critical to the project's success. Embracing the

Pilgrims' commitment to self-governance will help me to thrive in academic and professional settings.

The sense of community fostered by the Pilgrims is also extremely relevant today. The Pilgrims placed great emphasis mutual aid and support, recognizing that their survival depended on their ability to work together and care for one another (Plymouth Colony Archive Project, 1998). In a more modern context, this value translates into a strong sense of unity and shared purpose. As I look forward to joining the community at Purdue University, I am reminded of the importance of building strong and trustworthy networks. In the field of rocket science, where most projects are complex enough as to require the expertise of many individuals, fostering a sense of community and collaboration is an important part of the work environment. The Pilgrims' example teaches me to value and contribute to my community, both academically and professionally, to achieve all of our goals.

Moreover, the Pilgrims' quest for new opportunities and a better life is reflected in my own ambitions. Their journey to the New World was driven by a desire for religious freedom, economic prospects, and a fresh start (Winship, 2005). This pioneering spirit is very similar to the curiosity that fuels the field of rocket science. The desire to explore the unknown, push boundaries, and achieve what was thought impossible is a core value of both the Pilgrims' journey and the scientific endeavors I wish to pursue in the future. Purdue University's long legacy of innovation and excellence in engineering, particularly in aerospace, aligns perfectly with this ideology. As I set forth on my academic journey, I am inspired by the Pilgrims' courage to seek out new horizons in a time where it was much harder to do so.

The emphasis that the Pilgrims of the Mayflower placed on education and self-improvement is another value that resonates with my goals. The Pilgrims prioritized education, believing it to be essential for personal growth and the betterment of society (Cotton, 1993). This commitment to learning can be seen in my decision to attend Purdue University, where I will have access to cutting-edge research, world-class facilities, and a stimulating and supportive academic environment. Pursuing a degree in engineering at Purdue represents a commitment to lifelong pursuit of knowledge, a value that was very much held dear by the Pilgrims.

In addition, the moral framework that guided the Pilgrims' actions continues

to be relevant in today's world. The emphasis placed on integrity, responsibility, and ethical behavior is crucial in all fields, not just of rocket science, where the implications of one's work can have profound impacts on society and the environment (Morgan, 2006). As I advance in my studies and career, following these ethical principles will be an important part in ensuring that my contributions to science and technology are responsible and beneficial to humanity.

In conclusion, the values of the Mayflower Pilgrims—perseverance, self-governance, community, the pursuit of new opportunities, a commitment to education, and ethical integrity—are principles that continue to influence and inspire. As I prepare to attend Purdue University and pursue a career as a rocket scientist, these values provide a guiding framework for my personal and professional development. The Pilgrims' legacy reminds me that with determination, collaboration, and a commitment to excellence, I can contribute to advancements in aerospace and achieve my aspirations while honoring the enduring principles that have shaped American history.

#### Works Cited

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