

### My Life and Accomplishments

My name is Zain Ahmed and I'm a junior at Portage Northern High School. I was born and grew up in Portage, Michigan. I'm a hard worker and continuously challenge myself with opportunities available to me. The IB Diploma is a good example of a challenge. The classes are tough, there are tough exams, and it's a two year long challenge. My goal is to score well in exams and classes, and be awarded an IB Diploma. My next goal is to go to the University of Michigan to study business and engineering. I don't currently have a job, because I feel that most jobs for people my age are either retail or labor jobs, and they generally pay low. Instead, I work on cars and install performance systems along with sound systems, and that makes me my own boss. I sometimes have friends help me with the work, and they also make more than the average high school age job. I have learned a lot while doing this, and I like to learn by doing things myself. Cars have taught me about electronics, engineering, and problem solving, and all of those skills will be useful later in life. I have my family to support me, my school to teach me, and I am willing to learn and achieve myself.

My family consists of my parents, and my younger brother and sister. My father is an engineer at Parker Hannifin. He is the person that got me interested in engineering, because there is always a better way to do something, and there is always a problem to be solved. I have only moved once, in 2004 from Oshtemo, Michigan to Portage. I moved just before kindergarten so I don't remember a most of what happened then.

In school, I'm involved in the IB Diploma, track, and the Interact Club. The IB Diploma dictates what classes I take and at what levels. I'm taking IB Physics as one of my most

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2nd Hour

challenging honors level courses. It is very involved and actually requires thinking and problem solving skills, unlike a lot of other classes. So far through high school, my cumulative GPA is 4.39. I am proud of it and intend to raise it as the years go on.

My biggest difficulty so far in life has been school. It decides how the rest of my life goes, and that alone is stressful. There are tests, quizzes, and homework. After I complete homework, I usually go to the gym every night from 8:00 to 10:00. I find it to be the best way to clear my head after a hard day. My biggest accomplishment so far in life is my ability to pick up new skills. I can usually learn real life skills quickly if I understand how they come together.

In the near future I hope to be attending the University of Michigan for degrees in both business and engineering. I hope to also have at least a partial scholarship. In ten years I hope to be in an upper management position at a medium sized engineering controls company. After that, I hope to move up even higher.

My life so far has been well rounded, thanks to my family's support. I have been succeeding in school and have been able to keep myself challenged as an individual and take pride in my ability to learn. I hope to be successful in the future and have a job that I look forward to every day.