

Bella's 2nd degree black belt paper

Hello it's Bella Driver here again, but instead of testing for my 1st degree black belt, I am here testing for my 2nd. I am currently 13 years old and I will be turning 14 soon in this upcoming October. I was born in Seattle Washington, but now I live in Bellevue while attending a small middle school. When I'm not practicing Taekwondo, you can usually find me hanging out and doing fun activities with my close friends and or watching movies.

When I first heard about Taekwondo it was from my dad. I don't really remember the moment I learned about it since I had grown up, watching my Dad practice martial arts and also of course watching it in movies. It wasn't until I had seen kids my age (at the time I was six) doing Taekwondo that actually triggered me to start. For some odd reason they were practicing it at Coulon Park and I was there at the same time and that's how I saw them. I had a friend from preschool whose dad went to LMA in Renton who suggested the place. Next thing I knew I had my uniform and five years later boom I'm getting my black belt. Now 2 and half years later I'm here once again. So it took me seven and a half years to get where I am now. Here achieving my next black belt, and determined to continue to gain each next belt.

I don't recall ever quitting taekwondo. Some people who have been at this LMA longer than I have, quit for a few years then rejoined. After getting my 1st degree, I believe I didn't come to Taekwondo for about two months but eventually of course I came back. I think the average people who truly love Taekwondo always come back at some point. After coming back from my two month break, I felt more determined. I don't know why I felt that way, but every class I did I tried to do 110%.

This year I joined RTA (Renton Taekwondo Athletics) which is the sparring team at our LMA. My dad wanted me to do RTA for a long time but the work out was too rigorous and now training hard is my favorite part.

So here is the main part of the paper. How I have grown into my role of being a black belt. Well, for starters, I think I have taken charge or I have taken the responsibility of being a black belt. Being a black belt is being a role model to other students; weather its younger belts or younger people, etc. Being a role model doesn't just mean you have outstanding technique or you are a perfectionist in all of your poomses or you are a national champion in sparring. Being those are great and all but you can sometimes forget the other part of being a role model, having responsibility. Say there is a crowded class and all of the instructors are out on the mats teaching away. The phone rings and no one is running to answer it. You should already be there on the second ring. If they need to talk to one of the instructors, tell them politely they are not available at the moment, get out a sticky note and have the caller leave them a message. Or another example is teaching, just teaching. It's simple you're a black belt; you know the curriculum of each belt underneath you. You should especially be willing to help teach when there are a lot of different colored belts in one class. Don't let the instructor ask for your help, volunteer it. There are many other various ways to show your responsibility as a black belt.

There really are not any big obstacles that make me think oh yeah the decision to overcome that was really the definite reason I am here at this moment. So I think a most memorable one to me is in class, just trying my hardest. Like I said when I became a black belt, I

had the feeling of giving it all 110%. I now feel like that every single time I am in class. I feel the need to give it my all in Taekwondo.

Oh now its thank you time. Of course I have my parents to thank. My dad Geoffrey, who obviously works here, who pays for my tournaments and tells me what I should work on to clean up my technique. My mom, who has never complained about how much time I spend at LMA and who always encourages me. And I also thank the instructors. Instructor Micah, you always give us a refreshing work out and you keep the class running smoothly. Instructor Robert, you have always been here since day one, you were the one who handed me my first white belt and uniform telling me I recall to not get it dirty and not to play in it. You always give RTA and regular classes an intense work out. Thank you. I want to thank Jada Amy and Miguel for being here, testing for their 2nd degree with me just as they did two and a half years ago, testing for our black belts. I also want to thank everyone who has every trained with me, for encouraging me, and helping me improve. Thank you too RTA for teaching me how to not get my butt totally kicked in tournaments. Thank you coach Karl for being the one who usually coaches me in fights, you really give me confidence and give me good advice out there in the ring. Michael Tzeng. Your there to help me improve, your there as a partner in class, your there as a friend, but also your there as the big brother I never had. Again, thank you to everyone here at LMA, the ones who are new here and the ones who have been here since the beginning. Thank you.