

## College Essay on Ms. Evelyn Ireton

“Tendu, plie’, pirouette” a petite, polished-looking woman repeats from the corner of the Episcopal High School dance studio. This is an everyday occurrence in dance class, and four years ago, I would never have thought that this quiet, reserved woman would teach me so many important life lessons. Yet here I am writing a college essay about how she has altered the way I interact with people and the problems I face in my own life.

Evelyn Ireton has a certain knack for inspiring people to reach their fullest potential without losing her patience or making them feel embarrassed or foolish. She is the exception to all of the coaches I have had in the past who try to force improvement through angry outbursts and harsh criticisms. Don’t get me wrong—she doesn’t sugarcoat things and takes her students and job just as, if not more, seriously than any of the other coaches I’ve had. However, she also fully and truly respects her students. For this reason, I hold her with the highest regard.

I’m not always the most punctual person on the planet. I have arrived late to a dance class or rehearsal once or twice, to say the least. In these situations, she has no problem with scolding me, explaining the importance of punctuality and the consequences of lacking it. No one likes to be yelled at, and I obviously don’t enjoy these reprimands but because she treats me with respect, I respect her and all of the lessons that she has to offer. This respect especially matters in the critical environment of dance, but also with anything that one does in life. No one is perfect and while everyone knows this, a lot of people still expect it. Imperfection is part of what makes us who we are, and she accepts these flaws and works with me to improve them inside the dance studio so that I may utilize these lessons elsewhere.

Evelyn Ireton is the best example that I know of the Golden Rule: “Treat others as you would like to be treated.” I now know how uplifting and empowering it feels to be respectful, and I want to help others experience this feeling too. Whenever I am tempted to criticize someone, I think about how they will think about me in the future. I would never want to be remembered as a judgmental and condescending person. Everyone has their own problems that they are dealing with and whether one realizes it or not, a little respect can help them through these obstacles. When you treat people in this way, they will return the favor, listening to what you have to say, no matter the significance.

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