

Name: Jesus Delgado

Which college or university are you attending in Fall of 2020?: Florida Institute of Technology, FIT

Upload your essay response here: "Think about yourself 10 years in the future. What do you think the world might look like? How will you contribute to that world?"

From a poor underdeveloped country void of opportunities to succeed in life, to one of the greatest nations in the world full of chances to fulfill every dream. This statement defines my journey and the turning point of my young life. At the age of 11 my family and I were given the great opportunity to immigrate to the United States from the small Caribbean island of Cuba. My parents decided to take the opportunity to move to the United States, leaving everything they loved behind, in order to provide a better life for me and my sister. Words can not express the sense of gratitude I feel having the opportunity to chase my dreams in a country which quickly became my new home. Almost a year after the COVID-19 pandemic took the world by storm, I am fortunate enough to be able to sit down and compose this essay, reflecting on my past and my future. I could have never imagined having the opportunity to go to an engineering college and pursue my life-long dream to become part of a team making history in space exploration. The pure curiosity of what lies beyond our world is intriguing, but more so is the continuous push of the boundaries of what was previously thought to be impossible. In 10 years from now I picture myself being lucky enough to provide for my family financially, serve as a role model for younger generations, and expand my education in the engineering field in order to join the elite ranks of remarkable space agencies like NASA.

To understand my present desires and ambitions I must consult the early formative memories of my childhood. These memories truly provide a great deal of drive and determination as they constantly remind me where I came from and the position I am in today. Regardless of the limited freedoms and restricted opportunities in my home country of Cuba, my imagination could still manage to flow freely at a young age. I always admired the sun, its fellow stars in the night sky, and the power they hold to remain unchanged. I wondered how something could be so rigidly woven into the universe we know, remaining unbothered regardless of the course of our lives. "The sun will always rise again." This phrase holds a great deal of significance to me as it symbolizes the true power of the universe around us, which I believe radiates in each and everyone one of us. The same ultimate resilience and persistence possessed by the sun is exhibited by the same heroes mentioned before as they rise up everyday and strive to make the world better. Countless healthcare workers rise everyday to fulfill their front line role of combating the pandemic. Countless firefighters stay alert day and night to safeguard the people in their communities. When I picture myself in 10 years I can not help but imagine myself striving to be like these everyday heroes who profoundly better the lives of everyone.

Our world, ever changing as the seasons, is always unpredictable and oftentimes problematic. We still stand amidst an era of growing conflicting opinions and expanding division. Being that minorities still face the unfair diminution of their civil liberties, we as a community must not let up the fight to obtain a future full of equal opportunities for all. I cannot predict the future but I can positively offer optimistic views of what our world may become. A world full of people who will be actively fighting to end world hunger and climate change. A world where all minds, regardless of culture, will be given a chance to flourish. A world where we can find the solution to our problems by allowing international collaborations. A world where basic rights and freedoms will be equally honored amongst all races and cultures. The people living in this world will highlight the outstanding qualities of selfishness and care for others that I strive to exhibit as a member of my own community. A community in which children will be encouraged to learn about the world that surrounds them, and curiosity will be vitally encouraged. In this community I would love to teach and share my passion for the scientific world that coexists with everyone of us. A scientific world that has altered the course of history countless times and led to increasingly growing breathtaking discoveries. It is with uttermost hopefulness that I imagine myself living in this world, where we as humans relentlessly rise like the Sun to build a better tomorrow.

In the same fashion, when asked to envision my future I cannot help but smile with humbling passion. The transition to a new way of life and having to assimilate to a new culture certainly proved to be a difficult challenge. It was after witnessing the struggle of my parents in this new country that everything changed in the back of my mind. I realized I must devote myself and take full advantage of those opportunities presented to me in order to become something they would be proud of. I went from barely speaking a few words of English to holding a 4.0 GPA throughout my high school career and earning my AICE diploma in a span of 7 years. The drastic change of realities only proved to be a learning experience for me in which I remain endlessly grateful for being in the position I am in today. It was always my dream to study the universe and participate in our ongoing quest for knowledge within the stars that lay beyond our night sky. In the next 10 years of my life I plan to attend the Florida Institute of Technology, in which I will pursue a degree in aerospace engineering. I also intend to gain practical experience working in the field of aeronautics by also seeking an internship or cooperation program with a local space agency. After graduating from college I shall also pursue a job at NASA, the world renown hub for space exploration. In the 4 or 5 years remaining in this decade-long journey I shall also actively chase a higher education in my specific field in order to move up the ranks and reach a position of higher impact and influence. It is in the culmination of this image of my future that I see myself giving back to my parents for all they ever did for me when I was young. I picture myself handing my mother the keys to her first house and hugging my dad with tears of pure joy. Alongside the immense feeling of pride for being able to provide for my family, there will also be my vision to participate in the history making process of space exploration. The sense of belonging to something bigger than oneself is truly remarkable as your actions can pave the way for future generations and truly outlast the test of time.

In conclusion, picturing the world and my place in its future provides a complicated but warm invitation to allow my enthusiastic nature to flourish. As our future proves to be uncertain to many, we must focus on the importance of caring for one another and true meaningful collaboration to counteract any obstacles that may arise. In this future I will strive to actively contribute to those in my community who need it the most, such as children facing food insecurity and lack of access to education. Additionally I will aspire to serve as a role model to younger generations of dreamers just like me. In inspiring others we can also find true meaning, as the ideas and efforts of those younger generations might just contain the solutions to many of the problems we might face. It is then that I shall rejoice in helping explore our vast universe and also empowering our younger generations as they will be the new driving force towards a better tomorrow.