Baker

Mrs. Turner

English IV

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Ready... Ok!

Count to eight, now what is the next number? Most people would quickly reply “nine” which is correct, in this world, in my world I go back to one and start over. The word “flip” makes certain people cringe, those certain people are cheerleaders. In the cheer world a “flip” is a “tuck.” Most people would not second guess what goes into preparing a cheerleading team for competitions. I am not talking about high school cheerleading teams, I am talking about hardcore, no off season, allstar teams. The glitz and and the glamor of the cheer world, the reason you hate glitter, and the reason I love it. In my future I want to open a cheerleading gym and coach an allstar team, “why?” you may ask and I will quickly reply with, “I spent my life looking up to all my coaches, being inspired, and pushed to do my best by them, I want to be that person in another girl or boy’s life.” Having a cheerleading gym does not seem like much. You get cheerleaders, teach them things and hope for the best at competition, right? If you agreed, you have no clue what you are talking about, you become a mentor, a mother figure to all the team’s members, a doctor at practice, lead the team into becoming a family, guide them down the right paths, be there when they need you, and that is just the start of it. Every coach I have ever had has always been a mother figure away from home in my life, they made our team a family and the gym a home away from home. Coaches were always the people I looked up too when I was younger; I always wanted to be just like them. They were my heros. I never idolized a famous actress or singer, never did I want to be a model. I idolized your everyday average women and men who outside of the gym are normal, but no one except the team seen them during practice, they were always my hero. My coaches have helped lead me to who I am today, they talked with me through my struggles, they made sure my grades were up, they sat by me through my injuries, and even talked about my future plans with me. Going into this project, I only knew what I have seen, I had no clue what went on behind the scenes, the glitter, the curtain, or at the bottom of the competition mat waiting for your teams name to be called. Owning an all star cheer gym and coaching an all star team is the best career choice for me because it is something I love, something that has inspired me my whole life, something that made me into who I am today, and I know if you love what you do, you will never have to work a day in your life.

Being a cheerleading coach is not just glitz and glam, you put just as much sweat and tears into the routine as the members. In order to be successful, I must be prepared to have multiple jobs. I have to be able to have a partnership, but be able to pay my employees if I chose to have a partnership(Willax). I need to be able to set up a spendable budget that will allow me to continue my company as well as pay my workers. I need to have a plan and know exactly what I want to happen and know how I want my business to continue if something were to happen or when I pass (Willax). In order to pursue my career, it would be wise to become U.S All Star Federation (USASF) certified and American Association of Cheerleading Coaches and Administrators (AACCA)(Huntington) which will allow more training and knowledge gained, as well as having some knowledge in business and accounting to better manage my business. Being trained in first aid and CPR would not hurt when it comes to such a dangerous sport either. Because all star gyms are privately owned, salaries can vary with the size of the gym, the success, and the location adding to the wide span of salaries. (Soard). Average salaries for all star coaches was $33,000 in May 2012 (Soard). Offering private lessons and different classes can add to the earnings. The gyms with the highest salaries usually charge more and hire well known and advanced coaches (Soard). The top 10% of coaches earn $65,000 or more annually, but since gyms are privately owned salaries can vary.

There is never a “typical” day in a cheer gym when you are a coach; you can never know what will happen. Staying on your toes is the smart thing to do in this business. Your day all depends on what time of the year/season it is. In May-August you may start on choreography and tumbling and stunting skills, in September you begin hours and hours of putting it all together for a two minute and thirty second performance and start ordering uniforms and making sure all the money is right, in October you hope and pray everything works and make minor adjustments and pay competition fees, and come November-March you better clear your schedule because its competition season. What you do at work really depends on your schedule, what days you work depend on your schedule, and everything you do depends on your schedule, if you do not get uniforms in time, you can not compete. The only thing that remains the same throughout the year at every practice is stretching in the beginning to warm up and lower chances of injury and conditioning in the end to cool down, build muscle, endurance, and lower the risk of injury. While job shadowing Tamara Reed, owner and head coach at Cheer Zone Cheerleading, it was obvious the job was not going to be easy. Practice consisted of many disagreements between team members, new skills, and a lot of motivation, all in which Tamara had to do and fix. Though Tamara loves the girls and boys who cheer there, they sometimes drive her crazy which opened my eyes to what my past coaches felt with me. Tamara had to keep her eyes on the girls at all times just to be sure nothing went wrong and nobody got hurt. “They drive me crazy, but I love them and would do it a million times. They’re my family away from family and I wouldn’t change a thing about them.” (Reed). During competitions things are much more hectic and the coaches have to make sure everyone has arrived safely and on time to where they are suppose to be, as well as making sure they have everything they need for the day including music, hairspray, rosters, plenty of bobby pins, and extra uniform supplies just in case someone forgot theirs, which happens quite a bit.The coaches I asked said they would definitely chose this career again in a heartbeat (Daoust).

In order to pursue this career getting a degree in business is a must. Earning at least a bachelor's degree in Business Administration will take about four years if schooling is full time (Schweitzer).

Being a cheerleading coach is something I have always wanted to do because the coaches I have had have had a huge impact on my life. A degree in accounting would help with the finances of the business and would look better when and if I ever need loan. Getting an associates degree in accounting will take about two years to complete (Schweitzer). Getting a degree in Sports Management Degree could allow a huge advantage allowing the opportunity to learn about sports and health but also the marketing in the business, accounting, business, and economics (Atkins). Earning a bachelors degree in Sports Management would take about four years but would allow exceptional education opportunities and help throughout the future. I need to know how my business will fit into the market and the demand for the business in order to be successful (Gregory). I need to be able to invest time, money, and myself into my business.

Opening a cheerleading gym is not a choice for me, I have already decided. I have learned there is a lot more to it than just the glitz and glam of what you see, you have to be 100% dedicated to the team and gym and make the gym your second home. It is not just teaching a routine it involves a lot of money,math,time,patience,inspiration,and confidence in your team in order to be successful. Owning an all star cheer gym and coaching an all star team is the best career choice for me because it is something I love, something that has inspired me my whole life, something that made me into who I am today, and I know if you love what you do, you will never have to work a day in your life. I am patient, enthusiastic, a leader, as well as very friendly which is all qualities a coach should have. Being a cheerleading coach is something I have wanted for as long as I can remember, I have always looked up to my coaches and have been inspired by them. Cheerleading coaches are the reason I want to be a coach, they have led me down this path of inspiration and hope, they pushed me to be who I am today and who I knew I could be, I learned respect being under their supervision, but most importantly, I learned who I am and who I want to be and I want to be able to be that person in someone else’s life.

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