

## SELF-ASSESSMENT

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**Background:** I was born, raised, and live in the town of Harrah, Oklahoma. I enjoy reading, baking, traveling, and being outdoors. I volunteer for Virginia Smith Elementary School's Parent Teacher Organization and serve on the committee for the American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Harrah. I earned my undergraduate degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of Oklahoma. I have completed my first semester in the Library and Information Studies program, and I do not yet have experience in the field. Currently, and for the last seven years, I have been a first grade teacher. Education and the issues concerning the field, as well as environmental issues, are my passions. This background, and more, has affected my desire to become an information professional with a current focus on school librarianship. My career goal is to become a school media specialist. Growing up, and teaching in the town of Harrah, Oklahoma often meant I was not exposed to an abundance of information that may seem controversial to certain cultural areas. In high school, I had one teacher who exposed her students to what may seem to be controversial topics. By controversial, I am referring to issues that might make one question popular American history (e.g. impact of atomic bombs on Japanese civilians, the diamond industry, etc.). She did not sway her students' decisions in favor of any presented side. She depicted multiple sides of issues, and let her students come to their own conclusions. Adding to this high school experience, one of my undergraduate classes, Foundations to Social Studies Education, at the University of Oklahoma inspired me in the area of providing information. This class noted the overall social studies education goal of creating connected, caring, and critical thinking students. This concept has been a main focus of mine as I teach and has had a significant impact on my decision to become a school librarian. I hope to better my ability to teach students and assist school personnel in accessing appropriate quality information (whether it is popular or not) in order to stay connected and think critically about that information.

**Vision Statement:** Inspire a desire for, and motivate critical thinking about, information

**Mission Statement:** To be an expert in librarianship and to enhance my skill set and knowledge of services related to users desiring, accessing, and thinking critically about information in order to be an asset at an academic institution.

**SWOT Analysis:**

Strengths (To build on): Educator experience Persistence	Weaknesses (To overcome): Prioritization Too independent (need to accept others' assistance more readily)
Opportunities (To explore): Networking with librarians Enrollment in library and information science courses	Threats (To minimize): Lack of library and information science experience

**Strategy Area:** Literacy and Reading Supporting statement: I will seek out and take courses that center on books and materials for children and young adults. Strategic outcome: Gain exposure to quality literature to support reading for information, pleasure, and lifelong learning.

**Strategy Area:** Information and Knowledge Supporting statement: I will observe how current librarians model multiple strategies for students and school personnel to locate, evaluate, and use information. Strategic outcome: Effectively teach and model strategies to assist students and school personnel in information retrieval.

**Strategy Area:** Advocacy and Leadership Supporting statement: I will confer with school librarians, and speak with them about professional development activities and the libraries' contributions to student achievement. Strategic outcome: Establish stances on, and become well versed on, the positive effects of libraries on students.

**Strategy Area:** Program Management and Administration Supporting statement: I will take a course that centers on collection development and management. Strategic outcome: Gain collection development and management experience prior to graduation.

**Strategic Plan Reference:** Chow, Dr. Anthony, Lori Paulus, and Jessica Robinson. 2016. "Cameron Elementary School Library Strategic Plan 2016-2019." Accessed September 2017. <https://www.ncmcs.org/cms/lib/NC01001076/Centricity/Domain/1334/Cameron%20Elementary%20Strategic%20Plan%20Final.pdf>.