

My Black Belt Journey
A Black Belt Essay
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My journey began in 2005. I had just come home from school with a martial arts sign up form. Interested and curious, I showed the form to my parents who signed me up. Two years later, through my Father's choice. I switched to Community Fitness Martial Arts. Within a few weeks, not only did I learn better ways to defend myself, but I also made new friends like Sensei Taylor who would guide me through many challenges over the years such as my Blue Belt test which gave birth to my nickname, "Iron Man".

When I first thought about the meaning of a Black Belt, I thought it was a sign of completion, but I know that it is merely a checkpoint for I know that a martial arts career should never end there. One should either try other styles of martial arts or continue practicing their current one, or both. A Black Belt might mean something different to someone who quits after earning their rank, but I do not plan to stop doing martial arts. The Black Belt reflects hard work, and the honor, respect, and physical and mental strength that are necessary to achieve the rank.

However, the best part of my journey wasn't my Blue Belt test or the first time I broke a brick, but the fact that I got to do it with and was helped by my Dad. From putting on my White Belt to sparring as a Brown Belt, my Dad has been there

to help. Karate has caused us to bond ever since he put on a Gi to help me. He has guided me through many challenges such as my Blue Belt test, today's test, and many more. If it weren't for him, I would probably not have made it this far.

I hope to never stop practicing martial arts. However, I may try other styles of martial arts or hand-to-hand combat. I've always been fascinated with the katana and rapier. This doesn't mean I won't stop in for a lesson from Sensei Taylor or a Bo lesson from my Father.

With that said, I give thanks to Sensei Taylor, all of the other instructors, and of course my family for encouraging me all of my six years of karate.

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