

My Reason Why

By Shansley Glenn (7th grade, La Pietra – Hawaii School for Girls)

My reason why is the reason I play. My reason why makes the game fun. My reason why may be different from my teammates and from my opponents but it is the reason I still compete.

I play for my school, not the campus, not the administration, but the people who make it what it is. I play for the name on the front of my jersey, the one that I take pride in when I put it on. I play for the people that come out and cheer us on, even if it is one or it is one hundred. My reason why is not based solely on the colors or the name but on the spirit we have no matter if we are down by 20 or up by 30. My reason why is for the atmosphere of the school, the day of a game and the hours leading up to it.

I play for my team. The ones that will make the extra pass, go after a shank, and risk their body for the team. But my favorite part is that they know that I would do the exact same for them. I play for the girls that cheer on the bench even if we are losing, the ones that never give up hope until the game is done. I take pride in knowing that we have become a family on and off the court. My team comes from all different backgrounds, friend groups, and schools, but when we step on to the court whether it be basketball or volleyball we become one.

I play. It's my passion. The feeling of joy you get at the start of the season and the dread at the end of the season. My reason why is the feeling when you are tying your shoes before a game and the first wave of adrenaline hits you. My reason why is the way every worry or problem I had goes away after I step on the court. My reason why is the fact that I am known as the "basketball girl" not in a mean way but the way people know me because of how much time and effort I put into the way I play.

My reason why is the reason I play, it may be different from everyone else's reason, but that is the great thing about sports, you all have your own reasons, backgrounds, schools, and friends but we all play the same sports and compete for the same things.

And that is my reason why.