The journey to where we are now is different for everyone. Many factors affect the route we take. My journey to Indiana University was determined by my human agency and the social structure around me. The ability to look past just individual actions to understand the relationship between both human agency and social structure is your sociological imagination. We use sociological imagination to evaluate our lives from both perspectives and see the relationship between the two. Human agency is in our control but we can only choose how we let the structures around us affect our lives.

Our human agency is one of the major determining factors, agency is defined as the actions of individuals and groups in society and the choices we make. My journey to Indiana University wasn’t the easiest, but I was determined to make it here. The first two years of high school I was still under the impression that I was going to have my whole life revolving around my athletic career. After I was brought back down to earth with a UCL tear I had to take a look at my academic performance so far and see that I was not in a position that gave me much say in my future. After my decision to stop playing baseball I was set on dedicating myself to my grades and getting accepted into this school. I completely changed my study habits and began studying multiple hours a day and finding help when I needed it. Over the course of my last two years of high school my gpa turned around and I was finally in a position to be accepted. After deciding to quit baseball I found myself an internship at Gaylor Inc. While here I worked hard to get the most out of opportunity I was given. I used this internship to explore all of the different avenues I could and really get a sense for what I wanted to be. I spent time working and shadowing lots of different positions. After my time spent at Gaylor I realized I click extremely
well with technology and I became more interested with the opportunities that were involved with it. At the end of my internship I was introduced to the school of informatics at IU and realized it would be a great fit for me and a goal I could work to obtain.

In addition to the choices I made there were factors that were outside of my control that affected my journey to IU substantially. The social structures around me greatly influence my life in positive ways. Social structure is defined as the things that exist outside of our control, but exert a force on our lives, enabling and constraining our actions in the world. One of the biggest influences on me is that I was born into a middle class family. My family made it possible for me to attend Indiana University financially. With that being said, coming from a middle class family has shown me that I still have to work for everything I want. From a young age my parents have always made it clear to me that they aren’t just going to hand me what I want. Being raised with those expectations has better prepared me for the real world. The expectations they have for me shaped me into the person I am today by instilling a good work ethic in me. Both of my parents are graduates of IU and that vision has been engraved in my mind for as long as I can remember. Their high expectations reflected in my grades and the choices I made throughout high school.

Human agency and social structures have both influenced my journey to IU in different ways. Structuration is the two way process by which we shape our social world through our individual actions and by which we are shaped by social structure. The structure I was born into taught me the morals I live by and provided me with financial stability. My efforts to shift my focus to academics put me in a position so that I could be accepted. The structures around me gave me the opportunities to get here and the choices I made changed my path and allowed me to end up here. Without my structure and agency working together my result would not be the same.