



0. YOUNG PABLO ESCOBAR - Story Preface

1. YOUNG PABLO ESCOBAR

2. PABLO ESCOBAR BECOMES a DRUG TRADER

3. PABLO ESCOBAR - LOCAL HERO

4. PABLO ESCOBAR - THE PEOPLE'S LEADER

5. PABLO ESCOBAR and NATIONAL POLITICS

6. PABLO ESCOBAR - MURDER and MAYHEM

7. PABLO ESCOBAR and the WAR on DRUGS

8. PABLO ESCOBAR - A DOUBLE LIFE

9. PABLO ESCOBAR - NARCO TERRORISM

10. PABLO ESCOBAR SURRENDERS and ESCAPES

11. PABLO ESCOBAR - LIFE UNRAVELS

12. PABLO ESCOBAR in the EYES of HIS FAMILY

Pablo Escobar was born in the Rionegro area of Colombia. The town is about an hour's drive from the city of Medellin. This photo depicts how the rural area of Rionegro appears during a walk in the nearby mountains. Photo by Barbaraidad; online via Flickr. License: [CC BY 2.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)

When he was still young, Pablo Escobar was showing signs of his powerful personality. People would tell his mother that her third son was “bossy” and that he was a “leader.”

Although he wasn't academically inclined, college-aged Pablo embraced politics. He organized what he called a “Welfare Council” to help other students with purchasing books and buying bus tickets.

He was kicked out of school for not attending Sunday mass.

To help their family do better, the Escobars moved to Envigado, a Colombian town near the city of Medellin. It was in this area where Pablo felt most at home. Although Escobar did not speak English, we can translate his words as he describes life in Envigado:

I feel proud of being part of the community of the town of Envigado because in this place I have found the most valuable treasures of my life: my wife, my friends, my colleagues and co-workers. They all belong to Envigado. (From interview included in “Pablo Escobar's Private Archive”.)

He was, his mother said, a “great businessman when he was a child.” What is an example?

When he was between 14 and 18 years old, he was a terrific trader; he traded his whole life. (From interview included in “Pablo Escobar's Private Archive”.)

Not everyone would agree with Pablo's mother that her son's trading was a good thing.

Pablo's sister, Luz Maria, recalls that her brother began to take-on increasingly significant roles in their family:

In some ways, he began to replace my father because my father didn't live with us. He stayed on the farm. (From interview included in “Pablo Escobar's Private Archive”.)

Pablo loved music and singing. Luz Maria recalls:

He loved to sing and had a great voice. One of his favorite songs was the one in “Fiddler on the Roof” - “If I were a Rich Man.” (From interview included in “Pablo Escobar's Private Archive”.)

Pablo more than accomplished that goal, but the money he made was from an illegal drug trade characterized by murder and deceit. And the people who regularly bought his product—cocaine—became addicted to a drug capable of leading its users on a downward-spiraling lifestyle.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](https://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/YOUNG-PABLO-ESCOBAR-Pablo-Escobar-Narcos)

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Media Stream



Rionegro, Colombia

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