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2 December 2013

 Personal Statement Draft #3

Prompt:
• personal and career goals
• relevant employment experience
• reason for wanting to study at American University
• ability and commitment to undertake graduate education at this time

Impatient and eager, a six year old me in her most professional jumper delivered an inspirational and riveting speech on class recess length, which captivated her classmates. This won my election for class representative in a full sweep. The discovery that I had a knack for political communications occurred way back on that early fall day with a grateful smile and a passion to help my class. I knew I had earned my victory. Back then, I was a very determined little girl, and thankfully that trait has never faded. I am a veracious talker, with a hint of bossiness, natural take charge attitude, and the need to know everything. Perhaps these are not the most well liked personality traits, but they are mine, and I own up to them. If you ask family or close friends they will say I have been this way since the very beginning. My personality and upbringing made a career in the political realm a natural desire. My interest in your Political Communications program has been a long time coming.

As a student at Nazareth College of Rochester, I studied both Political Science and Legal Studies. It took a relatively short time for me to realize that law was not for me. However I continued to learn and gained from those courses as a way to enhance and diversify my knowledge and undergraduate experience. Within the political science courses I have took, I soon found that I was most interested in campaigns. By working as an election inspector, running my own class campaigns and living a semester in D.C. as an undergrad I have demonstrated to others and myself that I am dedicated, passionate advocate, standing confidently behind the policies I believe in, proven by various academic projects and citizen engagement.

I have participated in a wide variety of extracurricular activities and academic courses to enhance my public speaking and inter-personal skills. One activity in particular that has motivated my decision to pursue a career in the political world is a course known as, Campaigns, Voters, and Elections. This class is a political science elective course that transformed my professional goals and interests for the future. A semester long project was assigned, the goal being to inspire our fellow peers to vote in the 2012 Presidential Election. It was a grassroots, student-led crusade to mobilize our class into voting and having a say in the election. While going door to door, asking students if they had registered to vote, it was very alarming to find so many young people disinterest. As time progressed I realized my enthusiasm was contagious. I used my innate fervor for campaigns to try and win the hearts and minds of my peers. The project provided me technical and professional skills to organize a coalition of determined students to motivate others to vote and effectively instil change or interest in voting.

The experience of recruiting students to vote echoed my experiences when running for class election. Through strategy, knowledge, and organization, progress could be made. American Universities Master’s program in Political Communications offers the next level of practical skills and knowledge that I need to success in the political world. I would be humbled to gain and fine tune the necessary skills to work in the political sector. Much like the excited and passionate little girl that I was, anxiously waiting my classmate’s ballots to be cast, I am still so eager to aid and advance from learning about the political process at American University. I have so much to learn, and so much to offer.