**Personal Profile**

**Name: Hannah Hirasuna**

**1. The three qualities you like best about yourself are…**

 insightful, compassionate, and positive

**2. The accomplishments you are most proud of are…**

·      My grades: 4.4 GPA, ACT score: 31

·      For the past 3 years I have led one of the top 100 teams in fundraising for the

American Cancer Society’s Making Strides Against Breast Cancer event

·      I started an after school-tutoring program at a low-income school,

(Montgomery Middle), and tutor two afternoons a week

·      I am the Vice President of Events on the Sharp Grossmont Hospital Volunteer

Board. I also volunteer weekly at Sharp as a pharmaceutical runner/aid

·      Link Crew Leader

·      2016 Yearbook Senior Copy Editor

**3. The outside of school activity that has been most rewarding for you is.... because....**

Tutoring kids at Montgomery has been far more rewarding than I imagined. Helping kids academically is amazing, but I’ve become more than just a tutor to them.  My kids tell me about their home lives, teach me how to draw their favorite anime characters, and just open up.  I feel like I’ve become more to them than just another staff member. Knowing that I provide a consistent presence in their lives is more satisfying than I can even begin to describe. I am more than happy to give them the attention they deserve.

**4. What is your greatest area of weakness, and why?**

I’m exceedingly hard on myself and I’m learning to try and let my regrets and mistakes go.

**5. Are there any “extenuating circumstances” that I should include in the recommendation? For example: difficult adjustment to high school; family structure change; illness or other personal issues, etc.**

I struggled with my parent’s divorce as a child and continue to face conflict with my father. I feel I was forced to grow up sooner than most, but have learned how to stand up for myself and recognize and distance myself from negative influences. The lack of a relationship beyond the superficial with my father has affected my development far more than I would have liked, as he has become a very negative force in my life. Luckily, I have the most fantastic and supportive mother. The only reason I mention her under “extenuating circumstances” is because she battled cancer during my middle school years, an unfortunate event that also has substantially affected me. Through these events in my life, I feel I have gained more perspective, allowing me to be more compassionate to others in my daily life.

**6. Right now, what are your top priorities?**

Maintaining my grades, finishing my Girl Scout Gold Award, and getting      accepted into a respectable university

**7. What statement summarizes your personal philosophy of life?**

You are not responsible for other people’s problems, emotions, or pain. You can only control your own emotions and actions.

Everything may not happen for a reason, but everything contains a lesson to be learned and an opportunity for growth.

**8. What are your career goals or areas of interest?**

I don’t yet have a particular career interest, and am open to several different areas.  I’m hoping to double major in both math and humanities based subjects to expand my possibilities. Ultimately however, I feel certain whatever choice I make it will be one where I feel I am helping people.

**9. If you work, where are you employed and how many hours per week do you work? What do you like best and least about your job?**

I volunteer at multiple locations, but currently have no job.

**10. Use this remaining space to relate a specific event that affected you in some way (socially, physically, emotionally, or spiritually). The event you choose and the effect it had on you should give me some insight about you.**

The 2nd semester of my junior year I decided to add a sixth period peer tutoring class. I worked side by side my peers to integrate disabled students into college-preparatory classes. My assigned student was Ryan Perez, a fellow junior and higher-functioning student than many of his peers. Ryan struggled with reading simple phrases and comprehending what he read, so he often begged me to play a game with him, avoiding work at all costs. Well, on one fateful day, Ryan’s English teacher assigned the class to create their own “beat poem.” I told Ryan that he could write about whatever he wanted to fix, change, or simply degrade. After a bit of prompting, Ryan finally began to open up. We wrote a poem titled “Good School Day, Bad School Day” where he criticized Valhalla’s food, students, and a few staff members. Ryan laughed and laughed as if it was all a big joke, but that day was the first day I saw Ryan truly proud of an assignment he created. He was overjoyed to share his poem with his teacher, friends, and mom. To see Ryan, a student rarely invested or motivated to participate in school, so proud of something I helped him create, as cliché as this sounds, warmed my heart. Peer tutoring was more rewarding than I ever would have anticipated and my experiences with Ryan taught me to consider all people. No one should be ignored or treated less than any other, and everyone has the ability to succeed and find passion in one’s own work.