

## Personal Statement: Strategies for Supporting Students

### Case Study: Part I

#### Prompt

Describe the world you come from – for example, your family, community or school – and tell us how your world has shaped your dreams and aspirations.

#### Student Response

Growing up in a family in which many of my dreams, hopes, and goals have been drilled into me by my parents, it took some time for me to discover who I really am. I understand and accept the immense pressure that I hold being the first in my family to attend college; however, I will not let others determine my life for me. Despite our differences in career choices between my parents and me, I have been able to grasp their true wish for me: to live a life better than the ones they have lived and the one I am living now, and for that to transpire, I must attend college. Living in San Leandro most of my life, I had to overcome poverty and dashed dreams. With a successful education and career, I cannot only escape this world, but be equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to implement positive changes in my community.

My parents have struggled and continue to struggle trying to provide the best life for my younger brother and me. I feel my parents' dream and desire for a better life bearing down on me every time my mom loses a job because she had to miss work to pick me up from swim practice or every time my dad looks through the classified section of the Chinese newspaper searching for a job but ending with frustration as he realizes that his inability to speak English hinders his chances of being hired. Sometimes I wish for a different life, in which I do not have to endure these hardships but I know these hardships have been my motivation for a better life. However, I have witnessed so many of my peers facing the same adversity as me, yet they throw away their opportunity for a

better education. Their disregard for school pushes me to show them what education can empower one to do. Living with these experiences, I hope to come back to San Leandro and change the careless and negative attitudes people hold towards school. Thus, I wish to provide a better life for my family and myself, but I also wish to provide a better life for others who are struggling in poverty.

Many of my friends tell me they dream of becoming surgeons and lawyers; my one wish is to make my parents happy: I want my parents to be able to live a life in which they do not have to decide whether they should make the car payment or pay the energy bill. I carry their dreams with me everyday, knowing that my success ensures their success, and my failure becomes their failure. My parents have suffered and sacrificed so much and because of this, I am determined to obtain the best education possible and pursue a successful career. Therefore, college is the only opportunity in which I can fulfill my dreams. I know the possibilities a college education can offer me and my family. I long for an opportunity to enrich my mind, soul and life. College is a chance for me to discover and embrace my potential, my passion, my dreams, and my future.

**Personal Statement: Strategies for Supporting Students**

**Case Study: Part II**

**Demographic information**

Name **Julia Cho**  
 High School Excellent HS  
 Family Size 4  
 Family Income 37,000  
 Occupation - Mother Homemaker  
 Occupation - Father Mechanic  
 Education Level - Mother Some HS  
 Education Level - Father HS

**"A-G" Courses and Grades**

	Grade 9		Grade 10		Grade 11		Grade 12	
	Course/Grades		Course/Grades		Course/Grades		Course/Grades	
History/Social Science	World Hist	A/A			US Hist (H)	A/A	Gov (AP)	A/IP
English	Eng 9	A/A	Eng 10(H)	A/B	Eng 11(H)	B/B	Eng 12 (AP)	B/IP
Mathematics	Geometry	A/B	Alg 2 (H)	B/A	Pre Calc	C/B	Calc AB (AP)	B/IP
Laboratory Science	Biology 1	A/A	Chemistry	A/A	Biology (AP)	A/A		
Language Other Than English	Spanish 1	B/A	Spanish 2	B/A	Spanish 3	B/B		
Visual and Performing Art			Photography	A/A			Music App	A/IP
College-Preparatory Elective					Economics	A/A		

**Test Scores and Dates**

	Date	Score	
SAT Reasoning	Mar-07	1610	CR-520/M-600/W-490
	Oct-07	planned	
SAT Subject Tests			
<i>Mathematics Level 2</i>	Jun-07	580	
<i>Biology M</i>	Jun-07	620	
Advanced Placement Exams			
<i>Biology</i>	May-07	3	
<i>Government</i>	May-08	planned	
<i>Calculus</i>	May-08	planned	
<i>English Language</i>	May-08	planned	

**Extracurricular Activities**

	Grade Level(s)	Hours/Week
Swim team	10th-12th	10

**Employment**

	Grade Level(s)	Hours/Week
Happy Trails Nursing Home	11th-12th	15

**Honors/Awards**

Calif. Scholarship Federation	10th
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