

Essay A:

I never had the privilege of meeting Michael C. Rothberg, yet I imagine he would have loved one of my favorite quotes from the movie *Batman Begins*: "It's not who I am underneath, but what I do that defines me." Michael knew that being an honorable, dedicated, and compassionate man underneath was good, but actions inspired by these traits are what matter. Anyone who knew Michael while he was living, and those like my self who have learned about his legacy since he passed, know it is clear that Michael C. Rothberg was a great man of the highest character.

I, too, strive to live a life full of honorable actions. This first started at the age of five, when I sent a letter to the Pan-Mass Challenge, a bike ride to raise money for the Jimmy Fund, explaining that I was donating all of my birthday money to them. My family's involvement in the PMC dates back 25 years, and I joined this legacy when I participated in the ride last summer. My commitment to the fight against cancer is unwavering and will remain that way until a cure is found.

Michael was a dedicated financier and businessman with a successful career on Wall Street. When I was in middle school, my interest in finance and business led me to collect money for Kiva, a charity that provides micro-finance loans to women in third world countries to help them start businesses and break the cycle of poverty.

I have given back to my community, just like Michael gave back to his community. By serving on the Sharon Late Start Task Force, I tirelessly advocated for a change in the start time at SHS to benefit student's health and mental well being. While I only experienced two years of the later start, future generations of Sharon High will receive the full benefits of four years of a later start. I believe that actions inspired by dedication and compassion lead to an honorable, successful life.

Essay B:

An end to terror cannot come from one action, it will require years of careful strategy and planning. But if there is one single thing that our country can do to end word terror, stopping the Iranian totalitarian theocracy of Mullahs and Ayatollah's from gaining nuclear weapons capability must be the first priority.

Iran funnels money, weapons, infrastructure, and leadership to a network of world terror groups like its proxy Hezbollah, the terrorist organization armed with 50,000 missiles based in Lebanon. In 1983, Hezbollah attacked a base of US Marines and the US Embassy filled with innocent civilians, both in Beirut. Hezbollah's reach is far, as shown by an attack on the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aries. In 2002 Hezbollah tried to attack US civilians on ships in Singapore. Hezbollah does this with the support, approval, and encouragement of Tehran.

Iran poses a threat to the world through its conventional forces and unconventional proxies. If Iran gets nuclear capability, it has vowed to "Wipe Israel—the US's strongest ally, and the only liberal democracy in the Middle East—off the map." Iran has also said it wants to destroy America by taking American life on American soil and could use nuclear force to do so. To prove they are not afraid of attacking America, the Iran government launched a thankfully unsuccessful plan in October to kill the Saudi ambassador, several senators, and 150 innocent civilians by bombing a Georgetown bar.

Even without a bomb, Iran has shown that it is reckless enough to attack Americans worldwide through its own forces or the terror proxies it supports. If Iran gained a nuclear bomb, an attack on the United States or on Israel could happen with in months. Even if it never used the bomb, Iran would feel increased security due to its nuclear deterrence, which would enable it to increase its sponsorship of worldwide terror. The United States

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government must stop Iran. Diplomacy, sanctions, covert sabotage actions, and/or an overt military strike must be considered and, if necessary, used to stop the leader in world terror from getting the world's most dangerous weapon.