

## **REQUIRED ESSAYS:**

Please address topics [A] and [B] below in separate essays (approx. 250 words each) and submit as attached files with your application form. Be sure your name is indicated clearly on each essay:

### **A. Describe how your personal goals, challenges, or commitments exemplify or have been inspired by Michael Rothberg's legacy.**

Although I never knew Michael personally, the brief synopsis of character I read left me impressed and inspired. Yes, I was impressed by his academic and professional achievements, but I was even more impressed by his ability to utilize his skills and talents in selfless ways. I truly believe that the most valuable way to use knowledge and abilities is to apply these gifts to benefit others. Michael epitomized this ideology, and I found this to be the most motivating aspect of his legacy.

Similar to Michael, I have tried to use my own skills to better the community. As a second year Journalism student and the editor-in-chief of the school newspaper *The Talon*, I have used the knowledge I have gained to help teach underclassmen how to express their thoughts in a journalistic fashion. I have used my abilities to better *their* abilities in order to provide a forum for their thoughts and ideas. Additionally, I have used the leadership skills I have gained throughout high school for a greater cause, the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. My experience as a leader led me to become a captain of the Kids for the Cure team, a Massachusetts based team of teenagers raising money for breast cancer research.

I plan to continue using my own skills to provide help and attention to the community. Michael exemplified this method of giving back, and I hope to follow in his footsteps by bettering the community with my own talents.

### **B. How have acts of terrorism around the world affected your own life and your outlook on the future?**

Hebrew school was cancelled on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001, and that was enough for the fourth-grade me to realize that something had gone terribly wrong. As a 9-year-old, I couldn't quite grasp the magnitude of the event that had occurred. Now, eight years later, it is still hard to wrap my head around these tragic events that have yet to cease happening, but I have a firmer understanding of my own connection to them.

I traveled to Israel in 2008 where I was able to witness the effects of terrorism firsthand. My trip, which was a group of Jewish American teenagers, met with Arab teenagers, and together we discussed, among other things, our lives, opinions, and dreams. Terrorists strive to create a sense of fear between cultures so connections cannot be made across borders. While we spoke, we discovered

that there were in fact fewer differences between us than there were similarities. Fear was not even in our vocabulary after the discussion; it was instead replaced with words like friendship and peace. I realized that as an adolescent in today's world, it is important for my peers and me to form the international connections that terrorists attempt to prevent. It is our responsibility to show them that their atrocious acts will not stop us from creating a bonded, united world. For these reasons, I plan to go abroad during my college years to strengthen these connections and counter terrorists' efforts to divide the nations of the world.