

## Required Essays: Sarah Solomon

Please address these topics in separate essays (approx. 250 words each):

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

Like Michael, I did well in school and used that same dedication when it came to sports. In the afternoons one could either find me studying or in a pool. Swimming has always been an important outlet for me, and I found other ways to be involved with the sport, such as becoming a certified lifeguard and swim instructor. I also care a lot about the environment, and for two summers I volunteered at Moose Hill Wildlife Sanctuary, as a camp counselor. I spent my time playing with the kids and assisting the senior counselors. For the past two summers I have taught swimming and this coming summer I will be the Assistant Waterfront Supervisor at Lake Massapoag.

Although my talents are not the same as Michael's (I'm a failure at math) I also plan to acquire a job that uses my strengths. I want to continue with art, although I am frightened of the salary that comes with it. My dream job would be in an advertising agency, because I would get to combine creativity and artistic skills. Michael's legacy is a lot to live up to, but it is good to know that another driven Sharon student became so successful.

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

Before September 11<sup>th</sup>, I always considered America the best-protected place in the world to live. After the fall of the twin towers, and the pain it caused the country, America does not seem so safe anymore.

My first reaction to the attack was anger. How dare someone do this to us? How stupid could they be, attacking the country with the strongest army in the world. After realizing the gravity of the situation, my anger quickly turned to fear. Watching the dancing of the Iraqi villagers in the streets, the American flags going up in smoke, I realized the world is often not a tolerant or thoughtful place.

Upon further reflection, I realized these acts of terrorism are signs of cowardice. They hate us because we have so many basic freedoms, and have better lives because of it. Rather than putting forth the effort to fix their backwards countries, these terrorists find ways to blame America for their problems, and brainwash their people into agreeing with them. Tolerance for American society which values women, education, and freedom of religion would leave the terrorists' constituents clamoring for similar rights. Tolerance is not in their best interest.

Violence and fear of extremists are powerful weapons. However, knowledge of alternative forms of government and resolving disputes are spreading. While "Death to America" probably sound good to the ears of an uneducated, frightened and poverty stricken population, I suspect the given the chance, any one of them would drop everything to come to America. I remain optimistic about our future as a country, and am truly grateful to live her.