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Essay A: Describe your personal goals, challenges, and commitments and how you can draw on what you've learned about Michael Rothberg's legacy to inspire your own.

In our capitalistic society, where success and happiness are often quantitatively measured by material wealth, altruistic behaviors can be misperceived as being detrimental to one's well-being. Although I never knew Michael Rothberg personally, through my learning about Mr. Rothberg it is clear that he was successful, not only in the material sense, but as a human being. He was generous, compassionate, and talented, a loving brother, son, classmate, and teammate. He was, by all measures, an extraordinary person. By devoting his time and energy to causes in which he strongly believed, his spirit positively touched numerous lives in his community.

Similar to Mr. Rothberg, I have always strived to give back to my community, beginning with athletics. A top cross country runner in Massachusetts and a martial arts black belt, I am honored to have earned respect in my community. However, I understand that talent does not denote greatness; greatness is sharing your talent by encouraging and helping others. As captain of the cross country and swim teams my junior and senior years and instructor to younger ranks at my martial arts studio, I led by reaching out to others and helping my teammates and peers embrace their strengths and improve upon their weaknesses. My contributions do not end with athletics, however. I have been involved in all facets of the community by tutoring high school kids in a variety of academic subjects and involving myself with Pie in the Sky, an organization that sells pies to raise money to purchase meals for needy families in the Greater Boston area.

I have genuinely enjoyed these community service activities, not for the praise or recognition, but because I believe that selflessness is one of the defining characteristics of an extraordinary person. I recognize that during my lifetime I may not be able to stop world hunger or bring world peace, but Mr. Rothberg's humanity shows me that by loving and helping those around me, I too can build a legacy.

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Essay B: What would you recommend to our government to prevent terrorism in our country or anywhere in the world?

While my family and I have made multiple trips to China, one particular experience in our travels resonates with me. I remember that it was one of numerous smoldering hot days in the city. My family and I, with umbrellas and cold bottles of water, were strolling through a beautiful public park. We paused under a small patch of shade when, across a garden, I noticed a homeless Chinese man sitting down on a gravel path. His face was caked with dust, wrinkled and baked directly under the sun. His body was frighteningly thin. He remained completely still as we stood there snacking on a large bag of sweets. I had never seen a face so worn, so rejected. It struck me to see the lonely man in so much pain. I thought: *How could such suffering exist? How can we, as human beings, bear to see others with so little?* I don't believe we can bear it. I spoke to my family about the homeless man and I hurriedly walked across the garden and gave him our bag of sweets and the larger of the umbrellas. He took my hand as his face broke into a smile of such gratitude that I swelled with both overwhelming sadness and great happiness.

From this experience, I developed the belief that terrorism and other cruel acts are a result of ignorance. With exposure to people outside our immediate community, we can develop an understanding of the many forms of suffering: hunger, loneliness, abuse, rejection, oppression. And most importantly, by interacting with people bereft of our comforts and by placing ourselves in their shoes, we develop empathy for those deprived and isolated. We learn that many others are suffering, in whichever form it may be, and that we can reach out and make a difference in their lives. Therefore, rather than using arms and violence to attempt to eradicate terrorism, I believe that it is more effective for governments to promote compassion. I would recommend requiring everyone to service their communities weekly (their town and local city for practical purposes). I would also recommend that students, as part of their education, go abroad and assist less-benefited people of other countries, allowing students to develop a more worldly perspective while helping others in need. I too plan on traveling abroad during my undergraduate college years, specifically with an organization that aims to provide the poor, rural communities of China with medical supplies and services. Though I recognize that such a requirement may be challenged with refusal and criticism, I strongly believe that humans are innately empathetic and, gradually, we can transform the hatred in the world into humanity.