

Aaliyah Washington

Personal Statement

From the worn pages of historical fiction to the vibrant clash of ideas in a debate, I have always sought the deeper narrative—a story beneath the story, a lesson beneath the lesson. For me, education has never been just about absorbing facts but about synthesizing them into a better understanding of the world and myself. As the President of our Student Council and Captain of the Debate Team, I have had the unique opportunity to advocate for my peers while fine-tuning my ability to communicate effectively and think critically.

My mother, a university professor, always emphasized that education was more than a path to a career; it's the framework for a meaningful life. I remember our many discussions at the dinner table, where we'd examine everything from African diaspora to the nuances of Renaissance art. Those talks cultivated my love for knowledge and my desire to dissect complex issues. This passion was further fueled in my Advanced Placement classes, where I relished the challenge of applying abstract theories to real-world situations. The way calculus explains natural phenomena or the illumination of human behavior through psychology—these were not merely subjects but gateways to understanding the intricacies of the world around me.

Reading has always been my solace, and historical fiction my preferred genre. The genre allows me to traverse time, offering perspectives that textbooks often gloss over. These narratives serve as a constant reminder that history is often told in a singular voice, neglecting the chorus of experiences that shape it. It pushes me to seek inclusivity in every role I assume, whether as a leader in the Student Council or in community service efforts.

Outside of academics, my love for the arts manifests in my fondness for theater and my dedication to the violin. They serve as emotional and creative outlets that keep me balanced. While theater cultivates empathy by requiring me to walk in someone else's shoes, playing the violin offers a form of self-expression that words sometimes fail to capture.

I place great importance on integrity, perseverance, and community service, values that have guided my educational journey thus far. Whether it's staying late to help organize a charity event or spending extra hours fine-tuning the arguments for my debate team, I always give my all. I am eager to bring this dedication and diverse perspective to a collegiate environment, contributing not just to classroom discussions but to the greater community.