**Assignment 1 – Personal essay**

**Author: Laura Alejandra Romero Ayala**

**Due date: Tuesday, June 9th, 2020 by 5:00PM**

My name is Laura Romero. Right now, I am 25 years old and a student in a master’s degree in Economics of Public Policy. I grew up in many places (or at least many for me). You see, my dad has worked at a pharmaceutical company since 2000 and we had to move several times between cities. I was born in Bogota in 1994 and I lived there until I was seven years old. I have very few memories from the time: my grandma took great care of me, while my parents were working, so I used to play with the fabrics she used to make contains and mantels. I have been in love with music since I can remember, so from the moment I learned how to read, I sat with her CD’s books and memorize the lyrics of Andres Cepeda and Shakira’s songs.

As I mentioned, when I was seven years old, we moved to Medellin for a year. It was hard for me since I was used to be with my grandma. I do not remember much from that time, only that I was obsessed with some bunny books that were in the library of my school. After this time, my dad was offered to go to Cali. Since my aunt lived there and we had no family in Medellin, he accepted the offer.

I lived in Cali for sever wonderful years. Although I never learned how to dance, I made amazing friends, took care of my baby cousin, pamper my dog, ate delicious foods and celebrate all my birthdays by the pool. My dad got a promotion in 2008 and we moved back to Bogotá.

I must say, it was difficult for me to come back and switch school for the fourth time. However, I was always a top student in my classes and ended up having good friends. I graduated high school in 2013 with honors and decided to stay and study Economics and Business Management in Universidad del Rosario, since they offered me a 50% scholarship. I must say I loved both undergraduate degrees and I still feel they complement each other. I won some mentions along the way for my good grades and I graduated with honors from business school.

My good results brought me an 80% scholarship for any master’s degree, and I chose the Economic of Public Policy one. I also did one internship in the Central Bank of my country and another one in Washington D.C. in the Trade office of the Colombian Embassy. You must know that I dream of living there again at some point of my life.

As for today, besides studying, I am working in a Colombian Development Bank: Agricultural Sector Financial Fund (FINAGRO). I am an analyst for the Credit Guarantee Scheme for the rural segment of Colombia (FAG). Right now, with all the COVID situation, I work from 8 to 5 in my home and study. Since right now I am on vacation from the University, I try to exercise and read.

In my spare time, I love listening to music and reading. I enjoy classical literature such as William Faulkner, Jane Austen, and Oscar Wilde, but I also love Gabriel Garcia Marquez and Isabel Allende’s books. My favorite piece is The House of Spirits.

I got interested in Economics because I love numbers and I wanted to understand how the macroeconomic decisions were made among countries. I feel like I need to be stronger on econometrics in general and since I work in the public sector, I would like to be able to contribute with stronger analysis for the decisions that have to be made. I hope to get a tool of analysis from this class that allows me to be more valuable at my job.

I have high hopes for my future. In a year, I would like to be finishing my master’s degree and my French course. I hope I can get a job in a multilateral organism or a NGO (this could take some more time). In five years, I hope I can go to London School of Economics (or another top university) to study some more on social development and how economics can contribute to it. I also hope to have the job that I mentioned, I would like to be an analyst and to study the impact of diverse policies. Did I mention that I want to be married as well? This, I hope, with my current boyfriend who is also an economist.

Finally, in ten years I am confident I will have achieved some great professional development, I hope I can have the opportunity to travel and to investigate and somehow contribute in the making of good macroeconomic decisions. I also expect to have a good relationship with my family and to spend some good time with them. Mostly, I hope I will be a happy person who challenges herself, who keeps learning new things every day, and who learns from her mistakes.