

## SHORT ESSAY #1

The Student Leaders Program offers leadership training to outstanding students to expand their understanding of and potential contribution to civic and economic opportunities. Leaders constantly evolve. Describe what leadership means to you, and provide us with 1-3 concrete examples of how you used your leadership skills to deal with a challenge. Did you use your leadership skills to cope with a problem, enact change, or help and inspire others? What did you learn from this experience? How has your leadership style improved as a result? What was the impact of this change on you and the people around you?

(NO MORE THAN 500 WORDS)

In Tripoli, Libya, the effects of climate change have increasingly become noticeable, impacting our community in various ways. Changes in weather patterns have disrupted seasonal predictability, resulting in irregular rainfall and long periods of drought. These changes directly impact agriculture, threatening food security and the livelihoods of many residents reliant on farming.

Moreover, the rising sea levels are causing erosion and posing a threat to infrastructure and homes along the shoreline. Recent observations (one I have personally observed) have shown a decrease in the water levels along the Tripoli coast and Qarabouli in 2022 for about a week, raising concerns about what happened and what will happen afterward. Extreme weather events such as heat waves that last for weeks and sudden heavy rainfall have become more frequent, adding pressure to our community's resilience.

Speaking about coastlines, the Libyan east coast witnessed last September rainfalls estimated to sum the total amounts fallen in two years to fall in just 48 hours, which led to strong floods in its area that filled valleys, and caused two of the water dams protecting the city of Derna to collapse generating water waves that drifted a large portion of the city and its infrastructure into the sea.

Through my involvement in local environmental organizations, I have participated in cleanup campaigns aimed at preserving the natural environment and reducing pollution in our surrounding areas. These initiatives not only enhance the immediate environment but also serve as educational opportunities, emphasizing the significance of responsible waste management.

Looking towards the future, I aspire to have a more significant involvement in climate action. I aim to engage in tree-planting initiatives to counteract deforestation and enhance our region's resilience against environmental changes. As I previously participated in a tree-planting campaign and was able to witness the effect after a year. Furthermore, I aim to work with youth groups and educational institutions to develop programs that raise awareness among the younger generations. Educating the next generation about sustainability will be crucial in fostering a community that values environmental preservation.

Moreover, I am eager to engage in global discussions with my peers and community leaders on topics related to climate change. Engaging with a broader audience will provide fruitful insights that could contribute to mitigating the risks of climate change.

Ultimately, my commitment to addressing climate change stems from a sense of responsibility towards our community and preserving our environment for future generations in Tripoli, Libya. I am committed to actively participating in initiatives that promote sustainability and inspire collective action to combat this global challenge.