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Bergen County Academies

Mao’s Yan’An Red Base Application Questions

1. What interests you about China?

Not to avoid answering in depth, but what I think is so interesting about China is the breadth of its history. To pick one particular aspect would be impossible, but what is so intriguing to me is how much has changed over nearly 3,000 years of Chinese history contrasted to what has remained the same culturally. I take Mandarin in school and always found the cultural and historic lessons just as fun than the language itself. In addition, I participated in Chinese cultural dance classes for several years and was exposed to basic folklore which I also enjoyed.

1. What interests you about Communism?

I am interested in communism because I do not believe it has ever been successfully instituted on a large scale, but if it were, it would be beneficial. It is a great economical system in theory and makes sense to me; but when it is applied on a social level it fails because it does not mesh with human nature.

1. Explain your experience doing role-play, in Model UN or any other activity (including acting, etc.).

Almost every Model UN event I participated in has been a historical committee. I represented New Hampshire in Antebellum Congress at Yale MUN which aimed to avoid the Civil War starting with rewriting the Missouri Compromise and a fall of Rome simulation at my school’s conference wherein I played an advisor to the Emperor and won best delegate. I will be chairing a JCC at my school’s conference this winter. Besides being a history buff, I’ve spent much of my life performing in musical theater groups and several intensive acting programs. In high school I resigned to the life of a techie due to scheduling conflicts, but still remain active in Model UN, am captain of my Quizbowl team, edit the literature magazine, dabble in creative writing and play way too much of Sid Meier’s Civilization (which I insist provides some semblance of preparation for diplomatic simulations).

1. Do you have a particular interest in a certain time period, type of government, etc.? If so, why?

I am partial to classical Rome because I had an amazing and eccentric Latin teacher in middle school. In retrospect, I am honestly not sure of the veracity of her lessons but found the anecdotes of daily life as well as these sort of larger than life historical figures about whom no primary sources survive fascinating (did you know Claudius apparently once fought against an orca in the bay of Ostia?). Once I ended up defending Caligulan politics for an 8th grade project I was hooked.