

Kleiner Perkins Personal Statement

I'm passionate about moving the needle on education inequality. I'm thankful to have had very fortunate circumstances while growing up as I was raised in a wealthy school district with well-paid teachers and attended a high school which had a ton of classes to choose from and student groups to join. It wasn't until halfway through high school that I realized how privileged of a situation I grew up in. When my high school debate team started going to tournaments throughout Minnesota and across the country, I realized that it wasn't normal for a debate team to be able to hire assistant coaches and it certainly wasn't normal for a school to spare the expense of flying both coaches and students to other states for competitions. Competing with students from different areas and getting to know them really opened my eyes to some of the everyday struggles that people face which I had never even thought existed. From then on, I decided that I wanted to make an impact in educational inequality and help provide opportunities to students in situations less fortunate than mine.

Since I've started college, I've been actively involved in being a resource for students across Minneapolis. Last year I volunteered for 6 months at Justice Page Middle School in Minneapolis, teaching portions of classes, tutoring students one on one, and most importantly making relationships with the students and teachers. It was amazing to get to know each and every one of the them and it really reinforced the value of getting outside of the environment I grew up in and meeting new people from different backgrounds and experiences. In addition, I'm currently coaching and judging for my high school debate team to help the students compete in tournaments across the state.

With my experiences in volunteering for schools, I feel like the next step for me is to expand my reach beyond my personal actions to spread awareness for educational inequality and help take action to make a difference. Technology for sure has a huge role to play in this and its applications in this field are endless. From aligning schools with the resources they need to be more effective to enabling tutors to provide more personalized service for their students to democratizing education via the web, I couldn't be more excited to be a part of the solutions that my generation comes up with to make education better for everyone.