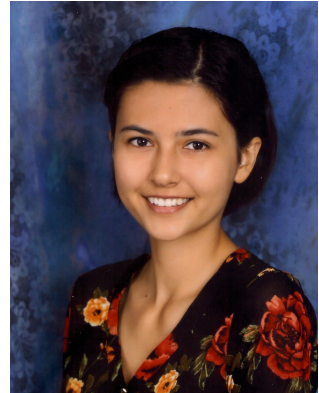


A Closer Look at Sydney Davison

Sydney hopes to enhance the college campus culture with her diversity. The following essay describes her multicultural upbringing and how it has helped her become a good mediator.



Diverse Mediator

I have grown up in a very diverse, multicultural environment. My mom is a genocide survivor from the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia. She was separated from her family at age eight and dodged bullets while escaping to a refugee camp in Thailand. She has given me a great appreciation of Asian culture and cuisine. Also, having come from a poor, humble, upbringing, my mom has shown me how to appreciate the simple comforts in life and how not to be materialistic. My dad grew up as a surfer and lifeguard in the idyllic Southern California beach town, Laguna Beach. Through his example, I have learned how to enjoy time outdoors hiking, camping, and playing at the beach. He has also greatly influenced me in subjects that my mom never had an opportunity to learn such as music and engineering. My mom has shown me the importance of family members supporting and taking care of each other. Whereas, my father has instilled in me independence, strength, and confidence. My parents have greatly influenced me in very different ways and given me an understanding of how people from completely different backgrounds can form a deep connection and strengthen each other.

Given my diverse background and upbringing, I often act as a mediator, harmonizer, and peacemaker among my group of friends. A lot of my friends are individually different from each other and have unique personalities, backgrounds, and interests. There are some intellectuals, some band kids, and some that are more sports-minded, but we all enjoy spending time together. I believe I play an important part in keeping us together as a cohesive group by helping to reconcile disagreements that arise. When there is a conflict, I try to identify what the differences are, suggest compromises, and ease tensions by facilitating open communication. In college, I hope to contribute to the campus ecosystem by using my diversity to help bring others together so that they can form meaningful and beneficial bonds with each other, regardless of their background.