

Vayana Stoyanova

vayana@stanford.edu

Education

Stanford University - 450 Jane Stanford Way, Stanford, CA 94305

Intended History and Political Science Double Major - 3.982 cumulative GPA

Mount Mercy Academy - 88 Red Jacket Parkway, Buffalo, NY 14220

Valedictorian - Student Government President - National Honor Society - GPA 4.0

Work Experience

Santa Clara County Public Defender's Office - "Watch Team" & "STU Team" Intern

Summer 2025, Full-Time (in-office); Present, Part-Time

- As part of the Watch Team, I am responsible for preparing a variety of criminal cases for jury trial. As part of the STU Team, I focus on more long-term projects assisting clients who are charged with homicide.
- Primarily attend court, meet with clients, review mass amounts of discovery (up to hundreds of hours of body worn camera and other documents), prepare clients' social histories, and analyze various other pieces of evidence.
- Faced with a variety of social justice issues, including racial disparities in policing and prosecution, class and income inequality, mass incarceration, as well as assisting the unhoused population of San Jose (with both their legal and physical needs).

Structured Liberal Education (SLE) - Writing Tutor

Fall 2025 - Present, Part-Time & On-Site

- Tutor current students in the first-year, living learning program "SLE" where students discuss ethics, philosophy, religion, history, and culture via famous texts of the Western canon ranging from Plato's *The Republic* to Virginia Woolf's *To the Lighthouse*.
- Assist students in preparing for essays & exams.

Office of Accessible Education (OAE) - Scribe, Exam Reader, & Assistant

2024 - Present, Part-Time & On-Site

- Under the OAE, I work to ensure students registered with the office have fair and ethical accommodations.
- Includes work as an exam scribe and library assistant for other students.

Rose Debate Institute - Speech and Debate Instructor

Fall 2025 - Present, Part-Time & On-Site

- Providing top quality speech and debate coaching services for students in the Bay Area, from elementary to high school levels.
- I organize and lead several private coaching lessons and after-school programs a week.

SLE in High School - Assistant Teacher

2025 Winter & Spring, Part-Time & Remote

A collaboration among Stanford Digital Education, the National Education Equity Lab, and SLE that brings a course based on the Structured Liberal Education Program at Stanford University to Students at Title 1 high schools across the country.

- Review the course material each week in preparation for a Zoom session where I discuss the material with the high school students and encourage conversation.

Tutoring and College Prep Services

2024 - Present, self-employed

- Assisted high school students with courses ranging from history to English and Spanish.

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- Provided guidance for students applying to colleges like Harvard University, Stanford University, and Nazareth University.
- Helped students significantly improve SAT scores (specifically on the English portions).

Bing Nursery School - Teacher (Work-Study Student)

Fall 2024 - Present, Part-Time at 850 Escondido Rd, Stanford, CA 94305

- Facilitate childhood development in a research/experimental setting.
- Observe and analyze children's behavior, while encouraging problem-solving and creative-thinking skills.
- Supported other classroom teachers in daily tasks and activities.

Vector Marketing - Independent Contractor for Cutco Products

Summer 2024 - Present, Part & Remote

- Conducted virtual sales meetings, recruited employees, and managed schedules and meetings across time zones.

Bethany Camp - Leadership Staff (Cabin Leader, Crew Leader, in-store cashier & overseer)

Summer & Fall Season 2023, Full-Time employee at 1633 Bates Rd, Sinclairville, NY 14782

- Managed weekly cabins of 8-15 year olds 24/7 hours a day as a Cabin Leader. Led a group of high school age volunteers in work/program projects around camp as Crew Leader. Oversaw the camp store and led programming and other operations.

Bethany Camp - Counselor-in-Training

Summer Season 2022, Full-Time volunteer at 1633 Bates Rd, Sinclairville, NY 14782

- Assisted in caring for thirty 8-13-year-olds out of 300 campers total. Led them through activities & one-on-one mentoring. Worked in market and store, as well as kitchen and office operations.

W&J Awald Farms Inc. & Awald Farms

Fall Season 2018-2023, Part-Time & Summer Season 2015-2020, Part-Time in North Collins, NY 14111

- Sold products to customers, oversaw games and activities offered at the pumpkin patch & maze.
- Picked berries, worked in-store and in the ice cream/food parlor, sold products to customers.

Child Care Services

2018-Present, Self Employed

- Coordinate with parents, provide child care for children (including those with special needs) ages 0-13.

Office of Accessible Education (OAE), Stanford University

2025 - Present

- Notetaker for students with OAE accommodations.

Extracurricular Activities

Journalism/Publication - The Stanford Daily; High School Newspaper Editor-in-Chief; Yearbook Editor;

Published Author

2020-2024

- Lead the writing, editing, and producing of the newspaper, and empower others to do so as well.
- Taught members writing, editing, layout, and design skills for both newspaper and yearbook
- Published 2 short stories and 10 poems through the Erie County Library system.

Stanford in Government (SIG) - Programming Branch

- Oversaw and collaborate on bringing academic opportunities to SIG with other branch members.
- Assisted with Stanford's Democracy Day Celebration programming.

Stanford Institute of Politics - Founding Board Member

- Serving as a Director in the Community-Engaged Direct Service division, advocating for students to become involved in public service and learn about the breadth of public service careers available.

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- Leading collaboration between local organizations like the Santa Clara County Public Defender's Office to enable students to connect with Stanford's local community and explore their passion for public service.

Stanford Women in Politics

- Outreach and recruitment for events.
- General participation and membership.

Speech & Debate - Team Captain & four-time Speech Nationalist

2020-2024

- Became a confident public speaker, competed and won on the local & national level.
- Expanded our team from 2 to 15+ members.
- Degree of Outstanding Distinction & National Speech and Service Award

Campus Ministry - Club Founder

2022-2024

- Lead Bible Studies; Organized and spoke at nine high school retreats.
- Ran and planned several large-scale service projects.
- Planned and executed a mission trip to Argentina to serve children in Buenos Aires, April 2024

Book Club - President

2020-2024

- Organize and lead monthly book-based discussions.

Student Government - President

2020-2024

- Organized, led, and was a guest speaker at countless assemblies and other school events, including masses, dinners, etc.
- Communicated student ideas with administration and Board of Trustees.
- Spearheaded efforts to recruit and train new student volunteers; ran marketing campaigns and initiatives.

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) - Leader

2020-2024

- Advocated for DEI within school and the broader WNY community.
- Led school anti-discrimination initiatives; Fought against discrimination of minority students.
- Planned 3 county-wide DEI conferences; Presented workshop on Biases in the Media at Niagara U. Conference where I was presented with the Inclusive Engagement Award.
- Participated in and contributed to Buffalo Prep's civic engagement program the Youth Equity Academy.

Mount Mercy Academy's "Sparks" (A Capella Group) and Women's Choir - Student Leader

2020-2024

- Expanded group from 5 to 25 students; Organized 2 yearly concerts; Mentored underclassmen.

Additional Work Experience/Skills

- 400+ hours of community service in a variety of fields and organizations.
- Excellent interpersonal skills; great customer service.
- Experience with HTML and web design & development.
- Effective communication & teamwork with all ages.
- Teachable as well as an empathetic listener and teacher towards all ages.
- Advanced computer skills; proficiency in Google and Microsoft applications.
- Marketing and design; planning and organizational skills; experience with social media outreach.
- Large-group and individual leadership; project management and decision-making skills.

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- Problem solving; flexible & adaptive; public speaking and presentation skills.
- Advanced organization, appointment, and conference planning capabilities.

Other Awards & Achievements

- **McAuley Scholar (Mount Mercy Academy)** - Average of above 94%; at least two advanced classes per year
- **Carson Scholar** - Excellence in Academics & Dedication to Service
- **National Honor Society Scholarship**
- **Questbridge College Prep Scholar & AP Scholar**
- **University of Rochester's George Eastman Young Leaders Award** - Academic Achievement & Leadership
- **Spirit of Mercy Award** - Dedication and significant contribution to Mount Mercy Academy & the surrounding community through service and leadership.