

D EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND STUDENT ESSAY OF Sussman, William A.**ACTIVITIES:** List the activities/volunteer service **most significant** to you.

Activity/volunteer service	Positions held, honors won, or letters earned	Hours spent per week	Grade Level(s)
Future Business Leaders of America	President, Treasurer; Chapter Award, Regional Awards	1-2	10-12
4-H: The Miller Place Explorers	President, Vice President; Various Awards	1-2	4-12
Mathletes	Team Captain; Mathletes Award	1-2	11-12
Cell Phones For Soldiers	Collected used cell phones as donations to support US troops.	1-2	10
Brookhaven National Laboratory	Summer Science Explorations in Physics	35	10, 12
Music (Piano & Vocals)	NYSSMA Solo Medalist, SCMEA All-County Vocalist	4-5	2-12

OTHER HONORS OR AWARDS: List one-time honors or awards received and academic year, e.g., Academic Gold Medal, grade 10

Science Awards (9,10,11); Math Awards (9,10,11); History Awards (10,11); English Award (11); & Spanish Awards (9,10,11).

EMPLOYMENT: List paid employment held, academic year, and hours worked per week, e.g. lifeguard, grade 9, 10 hours/week.

Cashier at Stop & Shop, summer before grade 12, 16 hours/week.

COLLEGE MAJOR (if known): Undecided **INTENDED CAREER** (if known): Undecided**STUDENT ESSAY:** To help the reviewers get to know you, describe an experience you have had, a person who has influenced you, or an obstacle you have overcome. Explain why this is meaningful to you. Use your own words and limit your response to the space below.

“The fork is in you!” That’s what my AP World History teacher, Mr. Ruggiero, would say after every test. His class was the first college-level course I ever took, and I’m glad he was the one to teach it. Not only did his signature sayings make the material easier to learn, but he influenced me as a student and as a person.

Each day began the same way: I had his class first period, beginning at 7:05 AM. (Fortunately, I’m a morning person.) Learning World History at that hour could have been tedious if not for Mr. Ruggiero. He would include jokes and Star Wars references throughout his lessons, all in preparation to “destroy the Emperor” (the AP Exam). I still remember his lessons on “Finito Mussolini” and the Umayyad invasion in “7-Eleven,” to name a few. Better yet, he had a nickname for each and every student. Mine came from Star Wars. I once asked him a question, and – like the Emperor to Darth Vader – he answered, “Search your feelings, Lord Sussman.”

Mr. Ruggiero was at once entertaining and an effective educator. Not only did his mnemonics help me learn the material, but his emphasis on meticulously extracting the details of the text changed my academic life forever. He taught me how to succeed in rigorous courses, and I was often “the head of the delta class,” meaning I earned the highest test score among all of his classes. Mr. Ruggiero prepared me to excel both in school and in life.

As the year came to an end, Mr. Ruggiero surprised me. He gave me the AP World History Award because of all the hard work I put into the class. “You broke your neck all year”, he said. However, his response to an email of mine was even more touching. When I informed him that I scored a 4 rather than a 5 on the AP Exam, he replied, “I can’t believe it! You will always be a 5 in my book. Thanks for being a great student. You made going to school a better place for me.” I’ll never forget his kind words.

It’s been two years since that class, and I can attribute much of my academic achievements to Mr. Ruggiero. I would not be the student that I am without the study habits he taught me, and I would not be the person that I am without the influence of his kindness. Mr. Ruggiero has had a profound impact on my life.