

BAG SPEECH:

- 1) Family: My family has always taught me how important an education is. They have repeatedly mentioned what a significant impact teachers have on their students and how teachers can play such a big role in the development of a child. With this in mind, I've wanted to reach out and shape the youth in order to encourage positive behavior and a future of success. Additionally, my family has always pushed me very hard to succeed and for that I am very grateful because I would not have been the student/ person I am today without their support and encouragement.
- 2) Volleyball: Sports have always been a huge part of my life. Starting at a very young age I played on as many teams as possible. I love the camaraderie that comes with being on a team and working together toward a common goal (and winning, of course). I believe that playing sports or actively participating in after school clubs keep a lot of students out of trouble. The kids with nothing to do after school are more likely to experiment with drugs and other activities that can get them in trouble and distract them from getting a good education. In addition to providing exercise and a supervised activity, we can learn a lot from athletics, including leadership, teamwork, and many skills that can be helpful for the future.
- 3) Travel: Travelling is a passion of mine. I spent last spring studying abroad in Prague, Czech Republic. While there, I managed to see about eleven different European cities. I got to learn so much about Europe and different cultures, lifestyles, and history. I was also fortunate enough to spend some time during the summers of high school travelling. I felt like these experiences help me mature immensely and gain more independence. One experience that I had in Cambodia really changed my outlook on life and what's really important. I actually wrote my college essay on this moment. * Volunteered in a Czech High school while studying abroad... REALLY cool experience.*
- 4) Philosophy: Coming into college I never would have thought that I'd be a philosophy major. My initial plan was to study history, which changed to world politics when I got to Hamilton, and, finally I declared philosophy. No regrets- I love it. Many people questioned my decision to get a degree in philosophy, claiming that it's not marketable and I can't really do anything with it. I feel like my philosophy courses have made me a much better writer, thinker, analyzer, and arguer, all skills that will be incredibly useful in the future. My current philosophical interest is in experimental philosophy and the use of thought experiments.

- 5) Camp Jacobson at Robin Hood: For two summers (2010 and 2011) I worked as a camp counselor for 2nd/ 3rd grade girls. During this time I lead and supervised various activities while encouraging active participation by all campers. These summers made me realize that I have a special connection with children; I really enjoy working with them and I feel as though they respected and looked up to me. Also, this camp has a large population of campers with special needs, which made me consider special education.
- 6) South Bronx United (SBU): The last summer I had an internship with SBU, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to help kids stay in school through athletics. I really connected with their mission statement because athletics played a really big role in my education and I can see the connection between the playing field and the classroom and the skills learned in both settings. Commuting to the South Bronx was like commuting to a whole new world. I was shocked to see the reality of these kids' education when one of my tenth grade students wrote that his favorite subject in school is "Jim." Upon seeing this, my passion for improving urban education skyrocketed. My days at SBU were exhausting. My duties consisted of 1) mentoring a group of 7th/ 8th grade girls and leading wellness discussions every morning on how to maintain a healthy lifestyle to be successful both in the classroom and on the soccer field 2) teaching two classes (a 7th/ 8th grade class and a 9th grade class) speech and debate, 3) coaching soccer, and 4) chaperoning field trips.