

Essay A

*Describe your personal goals, challenges or commitments and how you can draw on what you've learned about Michael Rothberg's legacy to inspire your own.*

Although I never personally knew Michael Rothberg, as I read about his life and his achievements, I find it remarkable how similar we are. I share Michael's passion for technology and computer science as well as his devotion to help others and improve the community.

When I first started at Sharon High School, there was no student technology support program. During my freshman year, I worked with Leo Brehm, the Director of Technology, to establish a student support program in the school system, and since that summer I have been working in the technology department both during and outside of the school day.

In addition to helping faculty and staff with regular technology issues, I have also piloted several projects around the school system. This past year, I installed and setup a new, completely digital language lab system in the high school, which has improved both the student and teacher experience. My favorite project, however, has been setting up Google Apps for Sharon Public Schools. I setup and configured Google Apps for the district, which provides students, faculty and staff with an online collaboration, communication and storage platform. Most recently, I proposed, designed and taught a professional development course to eighteen faculty and staff from around the district.

I am looking forward to going to college and learning more about computers and technology, and I hope that one day I can use my skills with computers like Michael did to change the world.

Essay B

*If you had unlimited power and resources, what would you do to stop terrorism?*

For years, terrorists around the world have capitalized on their population's poverty and isolation. They survive by recruiting from poorly educated and isolated communities such as those in Afghanistan, where currently only 1.7% of the population has access to the internet. This contrasts with the 75% of the population in the United States that has access.

The internet is today's great equalizer: everyone with unfiltered access looks at the same webpages and is capable of having the same experiences. It can provide kids with access to "virtual" courses taught by teachers on the other side of the world, and more importantly it can dispel much of the propaganda many of these terrorist groups propagate.

Ultimately the reason that terrorism can occur in these areas is that they are vulnerable to the misinformation and fanatic beliefs of a few horrible people such as Osama Bin Laden. As the internet penetrates more areas around the world, people have the opportunities to become educated about their surroundings and the rest of the world, and things like the uprisings in Tunisia, Egypt, and most recently Libya, which were in many ways powered by online social communities such as Twitter, occur.

The best way to stop terrorism is to inform people around the world about the world around them and how other people live, and I believe that the best way to do this is to give them access to the resources of the internet so that they can find out for themselves.