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2/21/2022

Greetings dear Professor Jacobson, my name is Konstantinos Gkanas and this is my second semester of my freshman year at the City College of New York. I was born in Athens during a hot summer day in 2003, for the next seven years I lived in a small village located in Central Greece with my parents and sister. In December of 2010 my parents decided to take a very important decision and move to a new country due to an economic crisis that was going on in Greece at the time. In 2010 I moved to Czech Republic for five years, while I was there, I was dealing with a lot of hardships such as difficulty learning the native language, making friends in school, and adjusting to a new norm in general. My parents did not like the options that my sister and I would have in the future of our careers and decided to move once again. I moved here in 2015, this time with a better knowledge of what I had to deal with. When I saw these huge city skyscrapers in Manhattan my jaw dropped, I was blown away by the design and construction of the buildings and I always told myself that I would like to work on such big projects in the future. Ever since, I tried hard to focus on my education to pursue a career as a civil engineer. I attended a Greek Orthodox private school in Astoria for a year, but I had a difficulty dealing with the kids and dress codes that the school had. In 2017 I got my first Student of the Month Award and graduated middle school with a grade of 96. I realized that high school would require a lot more attention and hard work than middle school quick and therefore I put all my time and effort into it. I viewed high school as a Pre-k for college, something that would teach me lessons that I could look back at to make the next step in my life. I had a lot of fun during the first two years of

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high school, I made a lot of friends and expanded my educational skills by a lot. Everything was going perfectly until March of 2020, when the entire world was about to stop for the first time in almost a century. Every single one of us had to deal with unrepresented events and a new norm, these series of events would change the way society functioned as a whole. Online school was not the best option for me, but I had no other choice. I saw my grades drop significantly, whereas other students were blessed by remote learning because some of them would never make it to college without it. During the lockdown I spent a lot of time drawing, listening to music, playing video games and soccer with my friends. I realized how important these hobbies were for me, I don't know how I would be able to pass my time without them. I was admitted to CCNY in April of 2021 and was looking forward to attending school in person after 2 years. I was working at a restaurant during the summer as I was waiting for the first semester to officially start. Now, regarding my future as a civil engineer, I feel like it will be difficult to achieve but I'm willing to put in a lot of work to overcome any challenge that comes my way. Some of the challenges that I would like to come up against is the improvement of society, I would like to help improve the world we live in today. The concept of creating something from the ground up is something that intrigues me a lot, I know that it will be difficult to achieve but I will surely try my best. Thank you for listening to my story and ambitions

Sincerely yours,



Konstantinos Gkanas

Student