

In the professional career you are interested in pursuing, what would you do to help improve your community?

As an ambitious and contentious young teenager with a mouth brimming with retorts, my family conditioned me for my participation in leadership in the community. Growing up raised by Asian parents and grandparents, fiery rhetoric was a hallmark of daily life and role-modeling for my sister developed my sense of duty to help others. With my parents, I had to resort to persuasion in order for me to do anything my way. I had a rebellious and mischievous bond with my family, but even so, our link as a cohesive unit could not be any stronger. And with this colorful personality I developed, of being loud, disagreeable, and an impression of responsibility for my community, I grew up wanting to become a community leader, unafraid to challenge norms and encourage wider civic involvement in my community.

By becoming a participant and president of debate, the club provided the perfect outlet to channel my voice, my attitudes, my opinions, my values, and my passions out of my family and into the world. My very first oratory addressed the topic of the generation gap, stressing how society should undertake substantial efforts to mend it, in homage to my childhood experiences. To be able to acknowledge my past conflicts and painful experiences in a speech resolved a bewildering period of my life. Since that first speech, I wanted to express my concerns and to share my experiences with audiences in hopes that they could also better come to terms with their lives as I had. So I competed in the Optimist Club Oratorical Contest and in the Association of California School Administrators Region XV Oratorical Contest, winning both of them. But more gratifying than winning was me spreading an important message of hope to a crowd of two hundred in the Optimist Contest and me sharing laughs over my memorable and inspirational teacher at a banquet of teaching professionals in the ACSA XV Contest.

By becoming president of Mark Keppel's chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS), I galvanized members to participate in numerous club-sponsored volunteer opportunities. I secured a spot for NHS's participation in: the Obon festival in downtown L.A., a coordinated graffiti removal campaign, the soup kitchen for Thanksgiving in Pasadena, to name a few. But perhaps one of the most notable events I coordinated was a Christmas gift-wrapping service, where about \$800 was raised for the Maryvale orphanage. Future projects in the works, entail encouraging greater participation in: the upcoming local Cherry Blossom Festival and in an elementary school sports tournament. One of the greatest joys comes from seeing individual volunteers have fun in giving to the community.

Because leadership and using words to motivate people sends a chilling excitement through my nerves every time, pursuing a career that combines the art of language with leadership especially interests me, so long as it permits me to express vehemently what I believe is legitimate, constitutes justice and contains the truth. Thus, I would certainly take delight in a career as a lawyer, politician, judge, or even as a professor. Participation in the community is an activity I certainly enjoy doing and hope to continue doing for years to come.

Cicero expressed exactly what I want and intend to do with my life when he noted, "the aim of forensic oratory is to teach, to delight, to move." And as an ambitious and contentious young adult, my mouth no longer brims with retorts, but with the desire to teach, delight, and move by becoming a strong and successful community leader.