

Johnny Li

The City College of New York

135 Division Street

New York City, New York, 10002

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Prof. Pamela Stemberg

The City College of New York

160 Convent Avenue

New York City, New York, 10031

Dear Professor Stemberg,

My name is Johnny Li and I am a student in your class. I was born and raised in New York, where I attended several schools in Manhattan. I am a sophomore and I am currently undecided but considering a field of engineering to pursue. During my adolescence, I was clueless about what I wanted as a career because I was not good at many subjects that required reading and writing, but I enjoyed science and math courses. One day, I noticed that the World Trade Center had finally been completed while I was walking home. I was fascinated by how it was built and decided to “research” on google. I learned that it was mainly built by engineers and

architects, however, I was more interested in engineers because they had more hands-on experience.

Before attending the City College of New York, I was a student of Millennium High School, in Manhattan. While I was attending Millennium, I was often known as the quietest student in my class, often too afraid to speak due to the anxiety it would cause me. However, I gradually grew out of my shell and have improved in terms of academics and how willing I was to converse with my classmates. One of my teachers noticed the change in my demeanor and decided to give me an award for academic improvement.

I first found out about City College during a meeting I had with several students and my math teacher, who encouraged us to take the STEM program at City College over the summer of 2019. I decided to apply to the program and was told of the difficulty of these classes. Despite the information that was given, I decided to take a physics and a precalculus course. While taking these classes, my classmates and I were often given quizzes and exams to ensure that we would be able to cover all the topics within a month. The pace of the classes was difficult to keep up with unless I studied hard enough. In addition, we had to build a Rube Goldberg machine in several groups and combine them towards the end of the program. A Rube Goldberg machine is a series of reactions that occur to complete a simple task. My group was the first to start, so we had to brainstorm a machine that would be enticing and work nearly every time. It took several weeks to plan, build, and test out our machine. The machine consisted of catapulting a ball and then leading it down a multitude of ramps to pop a balloon. Overall, the STEM program was difficult but enjoyable at the same time. It made me realize my love for math, hence why I am pursuing the engineering field as a possible path.

In the future, I imagine that there will be many innovations that engineers have created. I hope that I will someday be able to make a groundbreaking discovery. Whether that would be creating a device that can contribute to making structures easier to build or more secure to prevent accidents. I am not familiar with many engineering terms, however, if presented with the opportunity, I hope I can help reduce the carbon emissions that are released into the atmosphere. We need to combat global warming because of the environmental issues it causes.

Sincerely,

Johnny Li