

October 26, 2015

Dear Mr. Gunther,

Thanks to the Eva Gunther Foundation, I attended Spelman College's Early College Program this past summer. I am excited to tell you about my experience. In short, participating in this program was one of the best decisions I have ever made.

I was born and raised in San Francisco, a large, diverse city. While I've had many great experiences here and am lucky to have friends who speak different languages and come from a variety of backgrounds, there's also a downside to living in the city. Fear for my safety has taught me to be cautious and, in some ways, has kept me from experiencing new things. This is one reason I was so excited to travel across the country to meet new people and explore a new city this past summer.

I am lucky to have had the opportunity to study at Spelman College, the top-ranked historically black women's college. I took a college-level English course and lived in a dorm with a roommate. I met many young women from across the country who, like me, are preparing to graduate from high school and go to college next year. Many of them will also become the first in their families to go to college. I loved meeting these inspiring women, learning from them in class and getting to know them personally outside of the classroom. I explored a new city, enjoyed my newfound freedom, and learned a lot about myself.

~~I worked very hard to earn a good grade in my English course this summer. My class~~
met every weekday afternoon and my professor assigned a lot of reading and writing homework. It was challenging to keep up with all of the assignments, but, thanks to SEO Scholars, I have learned to manage my time well. I created a schedule to set aside time for homework while also making sure I made time to socialize with my new friends. I successfully managed my time and my workload well, wrote numerous papers and completed all of my class assignments.

My experience at Spelman College also helped me learn more about my personal strengths. Living away from my family for the first time was initially challenging, but I truly enjoyed becoming more independent. I had a glimpse of life as a college student and as an adult—I managed my schedule, balanced school work and social activities, oversaw my budget, and shopped for groceries on my own. I was surprised to realize how much I enjoyed getting to know a new city and new people. Though my peers came from all over the country, we all shared similar goals: to get a great education, graduate from college and have successful careers.

This fall, I will submit my application to Spelman College. It would be a dream come true to be admitted and to return to the campus next year as a college student. I'm also applying to other colleges across the country, and I now know that I'll find other ambitious young women who share my passions wherever I end up. I am confident that I will thrive when I get to college. I am looking forward to getting a great education, making new friends from all over the world, continuing to become independent and preparing for a career.

Studying at Spelman College and living in a new city far from my family and friends tested my independence and my character. I am proud to say that this experience has made

~~me a stronger person. I am confident that, when I get to college, I will be able to handle the~~
new academic and personal challenges that come with this life-changing experience. I am
grateful to the Eva Gunther Foundation for making this possible for me.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.