

Cover Letter, Amoni

Being in marriage is a big commitment. In a marriage you have to know how to be able to communicate with your partner. You also need to know how to be trustworthy. Being in marriage you have to make a commitment sacrifice, promise, and then it pays off. Being in a marriage you consider others' perspectives. Because high school is like marriage I have to know the basic elements in order to maintain the commitment. For these past two years that I have been in high school, school has been like marriage. **I am ready to go to the upper house because my commitment at Metro has made me more confident, not easily tricked, and organized so I can complete projects effectively.**

When I first started at Metro as a 9th grader I was very quiet, had anger problems, and very easily distracted. When I became a 10th grader I became more comfortable, and became more aware of how important school is. In freshman year I didn't really know if ninth grade really was important to colleges because I had started to hear people saying that colleges don't look at your ninth grade year. But last year things were easy and some were hard, but with the things that were hard I got frustrated in trying to actually get the work done so I either didn't ask questions or didn't do the work. When I started at Metro I didn't really have a motivation to being able to make progress in starting and completing projects and being able to work with others. But I did have a motivation to have leadership, a strong self image, and being quiet. Now that I am a sophomore at Metro, my motivation is to be able start participating more and being able to open up to share voluntarily or told to. I feel I like I have a big purpose for myself and have sacrificed a lot of time and energy to prove what I can accomplish. An artifact that I feel that represents my academic identity is my **Homeostasis Lab Report** for Advanced Biology.

Mastering knowledge and skills affects my academic identity by increasing my ability to collaborate productively and being able to open up. This project required us to test our heart and lungs and to see how both achieve homeostasis which is balancing out your body to keep our bodies healthy. When this artifact was assigned we were learning about the respiratory, circulatory, endocrine, and cardiovascular systems. I learned what all the systems were and how the systems work together to keep us alive. For example, the essential question was, "How do your organs work together to achieve homeostasis during exercise?" I answered this by finding out what homeostasis was and being able to look back on my notes and work we did. Our heart and lungs work together. The blood has to travel to the heart because our body needs oxygen, and our lungs get rid of the carbon dioxide when breathing in and out, in order to achieve homeostasis, which is *balancing out your body to keep our bodies healthy*.

My academic identity has affected my ability to apply knowledge and skills by helping and showing me how our organs work together and how to keep them working. But most important how different things work together to achieve a special goal. Because my experience has been like a marriage, I feel I can be able to work together with my peers and have confidence in doing it, because when performing this lab report I had lots of struggles and I did things to push my group work by multi-tasking. I will use my research skills in the Upper House, to prove that I can find out and put information together and be able to work with others. Outside of school, this artifact has taught me how to keep my body organs working when doing an activity and how to connect with my body when things aren't right. It is important to work with others because for certain things you need others ideas, suggestions, and advice on in order to complete what has to be done. I shared ideas with my group so that we could get things accomplished, but no one listened.

The ability to not be easily tricked and looking at other perspectives is required more often in the Upper House. Being in marriage you have to be able to consider others' perspectives. It is important to understand perspective because it helps us understand how people see and connect to the things around them. It helps us put what we learn together to find out important things about people and the world. You have to be able to consider that everyone has eyes, but not everyone has the minds to think alike. The **Breakfast Advert** supports my claim because when doing projects we were taught about ways of persuasion and how people try to trick you into getting things. This artifact proves my ability to think critically because it helps me not to be easily tricked when someone is trying to sell things and have someone buy them or when classmates try to get away with something. The essential question was, "What was the power of persuasion?" I answered this by using my work and what we had learned in class. My answer was that the power of persuasion is getting what you want by persuading something. By convincing your target audience what's so great about that product by using pathos, logos, ethos to sell your product.

Throughout this unit and artifact, I have learned that the world is a place where we all have different rains so our minds work differently. Understanding of perspective affects my ability to apply knowledge and skills in new ways because it helped me think and understand the minds of others, and how our minds think and react to others' thoughts and experiences, which connects to power of persuasion which our minds have to think critically in order to persuade anybody of anything. Because high school is like marriage, it helps me to think critically and be able to reflect on how and what others think, react, and do things. Our minds may react to one thing but we think about many multiple things as we go, Persuasion and perspective helps me to be modify and adapt to how we see amass think about the habits around us. I would use my new perspective skills in the upper house to explore new things and be able to think critically about them.

My mastery of leadership skills makers me ready for the upper house because it helps me stay motivated and push myself to fulfill my goals. Like marriage, I own own up to my responsibilities. I have to know the basic elements in order to maintain the commitment. So I learned to maintain a purpose to be more focus, organized, and set goals for myself. To achieve all of these things, I have to make, keep, and stay motivated.

The leadership skills have helped me become a better thinker by viewing and seeing things on how others experience things, and to think critically. These skills will help me in the future when I am in college, with any classes that I have to take like if I have to take. When I am in drama or acting class I will know already different ways of performing things so I can show off what I know and receive feedback on what I need to relate more on or to think critically about others actions and response. The leadership skills connect to **artifact 3, my Reduction & Expansion project**, because we had to learn about expanding and reducing an object, which included completing projects, collaboration, and critical thinking. I learned about expansion and reduction of an object. For example, if one took a 6 cm cube and reduced that by 3, the cube would have a surface area of 2cm cubed. We had to learn about net, surface area, and volume. Net is the faces of the prism in order to put the shape together. Surface area is the outside of the prism. And volume is how much space is inside of a shape. The leadership skills in this unit have taught me how to take actions on what's important and put other things aside that doesn't relate to school actions and complete projects effectively in order to move on to the next.

The leadership skills affect my ability to apply knowledge and skills in new ways because it keeps me prepared, organized, and ready at all times. Like marriage, I am setting goals and promising to maintain to the commitment. I will use my newly revised leadership skills in the upper house to further my skills in organization and effective project completion for "my skills in

organization and effective project completion". Outside of school, I can use the leadership skills for when I am calculating the amount of something or trying to see how much an object weighs. An example of when I used the leadership skill thinking critically when it came to finding out and solving how much volume our object has. I can use this skill outside of school when I am filling out applications for jobs and programs.

I am most proud of being able to notice that when I slack off I quickly get back on track. You have to be able to motivate yourself through the harsh and difficult things in life. I honestly can say that I may have lost focus but I can push myself to realize that I have a place in life that is waiting for me so there's no time to waste time. But I feel like I can reach that place if I have a purpose to stay and keep myself motivated. When I feel like I am getting unfocus or distracted I will be able to realize

Marriages can be complicated but life is complicated. Marriages have their difficulties but has the key to making a commitment, promises and sacrifices to stay committed. Although I may get off track every once in awhile, might break a purpose, but I am willing to sacrifice and promise to keep my work organized, to be prepared, and stay motivated.

Cover Letter, Romeo

An Iphone is sturdy, smart, productive, helpful, unique, reliable, understanding, and is continuously advancing. Iphones are very helpful because they organize and make life easier which also makes it productive. They might appear to be fragile but if you give them support they'll fall and continue to function. Also, Iphones are understanding which allows it to Communicate Powerfully and Complete Projects Effectively. I'm like an Iphone as time goes by, starting out new, reliable and efficient at work, then later ends up more advanced and more desirable by being equipped with new apps and special features obtained by the ranks of people with the power of shaping my future. I am a fast processor when involving information that needs to be accessed. Like the map app on an Iphone, I'm able to zoom out and see all angles when trying find the destination to a problem. By me being an Iphone I can Collaborate Productively and Think Critically by performing several functions at one time which also enables me to be a multi tasker. I'm ready for the upper us because Metro has enabled me to obtain the things for work, college and life which are the leadership skills. I'm also able to be an objective thinker so I'll be able to connect better with peers by being an open minded person and someone who continuously Thinking Critically about all sides of the situation instead of being single minded. **I'm ready to take on all projects and assignments by being equipped with the mastery of the 21st Century Leadership Skills and that will result in me getting an amazing G.P.A. of 4.0.**

An important part of completing projects effectively is to use resources which I did during this artifact. During the unit of World War 2 we were learning about world wars and how systems shape perspectives. Our essential question was, "How do systems shape one's perspectives?" Systems shape one's perspective by systems being a part of one's everyday life, and within those systems could be subliminal messages that one might start to internalize because they trust systems more than oneself. Some academic skills that were meant to be learned throughout this project was research skills and perspective. Also we needed to be able to gain understandings of what people were going through during WWII by putting yourself in their shoes. The two topics that I was researching was the Jews and Nazis. After researching I found out the the Nazis were bloodthirsty and they treated the Jews less than dogs. Jews were forced into hard labor and killed for being old, sick, or if they weren't able to work. On top of that, they lived extremely hard lives by only being fed rations of bread and soup for the entire day. Nazis on the other hand were just animals, terrorizing and killing Jews, forcing them into hard labor, taking their family away, and starving them. The reason these actions took place is because Hitler was making a fascist system; and people revolve around their system so they had to adapt and by them adapting to the system it also shaped their perspective which resulted in scapegoating the Jews.

In the process of completing this project I first made a research plan for the two perspectives I was researching which were Nazis and Jews to show my research skills. Then, I found primary and secondary sources and printed them out, along with analyzing them. After that, I made source summaries and created character profiles based on the information I collected during research. Finally, I created a created a blog of the two characters and their perspective. In the completion of this artifact it enabled me to look at History as a door to becoming objective because you're always looking at different perspectives. I can use these skills in the upper house when I get assigned a project in math that involves collaboration because I'll be able to see people ideas better by being objective. Also I can use these skills outside of school if I wanted to find out past presidents on other countries or black heritage.

By completing this project I developed myself as a student by sharpening myself in the leadership skill thinking critically because I analyzed a lot when looking at sources and I synthesized when making the two perspectives of a Nazi and a Jew come together to support my argument. Also I developed myself in the leadership skill communicating powerfully by creating my product and getting a message across about how systems shape perspectives. Although I developed myself in some leadership skills, I can also improve myself in some such as completing projects effectively because I didn't meet deadlines and I wasn't totally organized with my work in my folder. I can also improve on having a positive attitude because I can get discouraged easily and that reflects badly on my grade. Finally, I can really try to improve on turning work in on time because I'm going to really need that academic skill for college at Stanford.

Justifying is an important part of thinking critically and this was shown through my GMO artifact. Also communicating powerfully is shown through this artifact by me code in the essay in a way that is appropriate for an academic setting and synthesizing all my sources in a way that is understandable and persuasive. During this artifact our essential question was, "Should we or should we not use genetically modified foods?" This artifact tied into our curriculum because we were learning about things such as genetics, RNA, homeostasis and etc. It was important for us to do this project in Biology because our school is a "Know, Do, Reflect" and this enabled us to "do" and "reflect." In order for me to complete this project effectively I had to know about genetics, DNA, RNA, and just basically having the knowledge of the body and cells and how they function. Genetically modified foods are foods that are injected with bacteria to increase its rate of growth. Also a skill that I used to complete this project effectively is that I set my own benchmarks so I'll be able to stay ahead.

In the process of completing this project I first learned about genetics. For example, we learned about recessive and dominant genes, base pairs, and DNA. Then, I got articles on GMO's that explained the negative and positive impacts that they result in. After that, I brainstormed my introduction for the essay. Finally, I got all of my data and used it for evidence in my argument. Throughout the project I also used all four of the leadership skills. I completed projects effectively by setting benchmarks so I wouldn't fall behind. I communicated powerfully by clearly getting my point across in my essay which was that we shouldn't use GMO's. Then, I collaborated productively by working with Phillippe for feedback and using it in my argument. Finally, I thought critically about whether to agree or disagree with GMO's.

This project improved me as a student by opening my eyes to realize that every aspect of my education counts because every lesson will eventually tie into one big project where I'll have to apply all of my knowledge to reach success. It also changed my perspective on notes because even though I don't get credit for them, they'll pay off big time in the long run because they have all of the answers to the big project. This project has also made me a better scientific researcher because I'm better at comparing data and taking sides with which one seems more developed. I can use this skill in History because I'll have to choose the oppressed side or the oppressor side. By completing this project I can apply it outside of school by going to protest against GMO's and conveying people to also go against them by showing the the cons that are backed up by scientific evidence.

Collaborating Productively is shown in this artifact by me networking with my teacher and fellow students for my Dilation artifact. The unit for this artifact was surface area and volume, and the purpose was to know how to input them in the process of dilating an object. Surface area and volume are the key points to dilating an object because I have to know the area of the surface, and how much space is inside the object, so that when I expand or reduce your object, I can check if I

dilated it right by using the surface area and volume formulas for my new dilated object. Dilations could be used in the real world for souvenirs such as the statue of Liberty. For example, the statue of Liberty is very huge and they dilate it to where it's small enough for people to take home.

To complete this project I followed a simple 5 step process. First, I chose a prism which was a Saltine Cracker Box. After that, I drew the net of the object and dilated by a scale factor of 2. Then, I sketched the new dilated net on cardboard and finally, cut it out and put the new dilated Saltine Cracker Box together. I completed this project effectively by setting, and meeting deadlines. But throughout the entire project, I used academic skills such as taking notes, studying, asking questions and being attentive, all to think like an expert. In return it led to me having a deeper understanding of how a scientist thinks because I did several trials, and I was always thinking critically and communicating powerfully. I thought critically by analyzing the surface area and volume of the nets, and put the new net drawn on the cardboard together. Also I communicated powerfully by using my helper in class to help me better understand the purpose of the project.

After the project I didn't gain new academic or leadership skills. Instead I improved the same academic skills that I already had. And for leadership skills, I can now look at a situation in class and determine which skills I should bring to the table. I'm proud of my growth as a student because I know from all the gains I acquired from the project, it'll be easy to complete future projects in any other class. Although I can improve upon my attitude with teachers when it comes to me not understanding something. That will result in me having a better relationship with my professors in college.

Out of the entire time I've been at Metro I'm most proud of putting this portfolio defense together because from it I developed determination and usually I'll quit or give up on a project but this time I persevered through. Although I'm a good student, I could improve on seeing value in people by using their expertise, and I could do that by engaging with people more with an open mind.

Cover Letter, Brittany

Being in marriage is a big commitment. In a marriage you have to know how to be able to communicate with your partner. You also need to know how to be trustworthy. Being in marriage you have to make a commitment sacrifice, promise, and then it pays off. Being in a marriage you consider others' perspectives. Because high school is like marriage I have to know the basic elements in order to maintain the commitment. For these past two years that I have been in high school, school has been like marriage. **I am ready to go to the upper house because my commitment at Metro has made me more confident, not easily tricked, and organized so I can complete projects effectively.**

When I first started at Metro as a 9th grader I was very quiet, had anger problems, and very easily distracted. When I became a 10th grader I became more comfortable, and became more aware of how important school is. In freshman year I didn't really know if ninth grade really was important to colleges because I had started to hear people saying that colleges don't look at your ninth grade year. But last year things were easy and some were hard, but with the things that were hard I got frustrated in trying to actually get the work done so I either didn't ask questions or didn't do the work. When I started at Metro I didn't really have a motivation to being able to make progress in starting and completing projects and being able to work with others. But I did have a motivation to have leadership, a strong self image, and being quiet. Now that I am a sophomore at Metro, my motivation is to be able start participating more and being able to open up to share voluntarily or told to. I feel I like I have a big purpose for myself and have sacrificed a lot of time and energy to prove what I can accomplish. An artifact that I feel that represents my academic identity is my **Homeostasis Lab Report** for Advanced Biology.

Mastering knowledge and skills affects my academic identity by increasing my ability to collaborate productively and being able to open up. This project required us to test our heart and lungs and to see how both achieve homeostasis which is balancing out your body to keep our bodies healthy. When this artifact was assigned we were learning about the respiratory, circulatory, endocrine, and cardiovascular systems. I learned what all the systems were and how the systems work together to keep us alive. For example, the essential question was, "How do your organs work together to achieve homeostasis during exercise?" I answered this by finding out what homeostasis was and being able to look back on my notes and work we did. Our heart and lungs work together. The blood has to travel to the heart because our body needs oxygen, and our lungs get rid of the carbon dioxide when breathing in and out, in order to achieve homeostasis, which is *balancing out your body to keep our bodies healthy*.

My academic identity has affected my ability to apply knowledge and skills by helping and showing me how our organs work together and how to keep them working. But most important how different things work together to achieve a special goal. Because my experience has been like a marriage, I feel I can be able to work together with my peers and have confidence in doing it, because when performing this lab report I had lots of struggles and I did things to push my group work by multi-tasking. I will use my research skills in the Upper House, to prove that I can find out and put information together and be able to work with others. Outside of school, this artifact has taught me how to keep my body organs working when doing an activity and how to connect with my body when things aren't right. It is important to work with others because for certain things you need others ideas, suggestions, and advice on in order to complete what has to be done. I shared ideas with my group so that we could get things accomplished, but no one listened.

The ability to not be easily tricked and looking at other perspectives is required more often in the Upper House. Being in marriage you have to be able to consider others' perspectives. It is important to understand perspective because it helps us understand how people see and connect to the things around them. It helps us put what we learn together to find out important things about people and the world. You have to be able to consider that everyone has eyes, but not everyone has the minds to think alike. The **Breakfast Advert** supports my claim because when doing projects we were taught about ways of persuasion and how people try to trick you into getting things. This artifact proves my ability to think critically because it helps me not to be easily tricked when someone is trying to sell things and have someone buy them or when classmates try to get away with something. The essential question was, "What was the power of persuasion?" I answered this by using my work and what we had learned in class. My answer was that the power of persuasion is getting what you want by persuading something. By convincing your target audience what's so great about that product by using pathos, logos, ethos to sell your product.

Throughout this unit and artifact, I have learned that the world is a place where we all have different rains so our minds work differently. Understanding of perspective affects my ability to apply knowledge and skills in new ways because it helped me think and understand the minds of others, and how our minds think and react to others' thoughts and experiences, which connects to power of persuasion which our minds have to think critically in order to persuade anybody of anything. Because high school is like marriage, it helps me to think critically and be able to reflect on how and what others think, react, and do things. Our minds may react to one thing but we think about many multiple things as we go, Persuasion and perspective helps me to be modify and adapt to how we see amass think about the habits around us. I would use my new perspective skills in the upper house to explore new things and be able to think critically about them.

My mastery of leadership skills makes me ready for the upper house because it helps me stay motivated and push myself to fulfill my goals. Like marriage, I own up to my responsibilities. I have to know the basic elements in order to maintain the commitment. So I learned to maintain a purpose to be more focus, organized, and set goals for myself. To achieve all of these things, I have to make, keep, and stay motivated.

The leadership skills have helped me become a better thinker by viewing and seeing things on how others experience things, and to think critically. These skills will help me in the future when I am in college, with any classes that I have to take like if I have to take. When I am in drama or acting class I will know already different ways of performing things so I can show off what I know and receive feedback on what I need to relate more on or to think critically about others actions and response. The leadership skills connect to **artifact 3, my Reduction & Expansion project**, because we had to learn about expanding and reducing an object, which included completing projects, collaboration, and critical thinking. I learned about expansion and reduction of an object. For example, if one took a 6 cm cube and reduced that by 3, the cube would have a surface area of 2cm cubed. We had to learn about net, surface area, and volume. Net is the faces of the prism in order to put the shape together. Surface area is the outside of the prism. And volume is how much space is inside of a shape. The leadership skills in this unit have taught me how to take actions on what's important and put other things aside that doesn't relate to school actions and complete projects effectively in order to move on to the next.

The leadership skills affect my ability to apply knowledge and skills in new ways because it keeps me prepared, organized, and ready at all times. Like marriage, I am setting goals and promising to maintain to the commitment. I will use my newly revised leadership skills in the upper house to further my skills in organization and effective project completion for "my skills in

organization and effective project completion". Outside of school, I can use the leadership skills for when I am calculating the amount of something or trying to see how much an object weighs. An example of when I used the leadership skill thinking critically when it came to finding out and solving how much volume our object has. I can use this skill outside of school when I am filling out applications for jobs and programs.

I am most proud of being able to notice that when I slack off I quickly get back on track. You have to be able to motivate yourself through the harsh and difficult things in life. I honestly can say that I may have lost focus but I can push myself to realize that I have a place in life that is waiting for me so there's no time to waste time. But I feel like I can reach that place if I have a purpose to stay and keep myself motivated. When I feel like I am getting unfocus or distracted I will be able to realize

Marriages can be complicated but life is complicated. Marriages have their difficulties but has the key to making a commitment, promises and sacrifices to stay committed. Although I may get off track every once in awhile, might break a purpose, but I am willing to sacrifice and promise to keep my work organized, to be prepared, and stay motivated.