

Victoria Reed Smile Train College Scholarship Application

Name: Victoria Reed

Location: Alburgh, VT

GPA: 98.68 (unweighted)

Extracurricular Activities: Varsity track manager, Varsity basketball manager, National Honor Society, Yearbook club, French club, CFES Brilliant Pathways peer mentor, Model United Nations, Suicide prevention conference, Big Change Roundup for Kids to benefit the UVM Children's Hospital



Essay Prompt #1

How has your cleft affected your life? How will your experience with cleft inform your future?

My cleft has undoubtedly influenced my life in a unique way. Rather than allowing my condition to play a degrading role in my life, I choose to use it to uplift myself and others. After receiving care at my local children's hospital--UVM Children's--since birth, I decided at a young age to start fundraising for the hospital. My family helped me to get involved in the Big Change Roundup, an annual fundraising effort hosted by a local radio station. Through the Big Change Roundup, participants collect donations for a few months each year. At the end, the radio station hosts a "roundup" to count and collect the money raised. My family and I took this to the next level by assembling a fundraising team, "Team Victoria", to help us host events. We extend Big Change Roundup throughout the whole year, with a golf tournament in the summer, and a spaghetti dinner in the winter. I can proudly say that these, along with a host of other events, have brought in a total of about \$175,000 since we began years ago.

Making a major contribution to my community has fostered a sense of confidence within me that I might not otherwise possess. I have shared my story to more audiences than I can count. Not only did I serve as a patient representative for the hospital for a year, but I also spoke about personal experiences at my fundraisers, others' fundraisers, on the radio, and on televised interviews. This allows people to understand how their donations impact patients and their families. All of this has led me to discern that my cleft does not define me negatively. I recognize its significance and its role in my life, but I do not view it as who I am entirely. As a human, I am much more than the scars adorning my face.

I maintain that the lessons I have taken away from my cleft can be applied to all aspects of my life and future. I acknowledge the importance of community, of acts of service, and of confidence in oneself and in others. I plan to add to my fundraising total, even if it is pennies at a time. I love sharing my story, and I continue to do so in the hopes that it will one day find someone like me and encourage them to turn a seemingly unfortunate experience into a positive one.

Essay Prompt #2

Tell us about a time that you displayed strong leadership skills. What lessons did you take from this experience?

Aside from my leadership experience in fundraising, one event sticks out in my mind: a debate speech. In the first semester of my senior year, I took a public speaking class. This class taught me how to speak clearly and fluently, mitigate fidgeting while presenting, use appropriate body language, and write well-thought-out speeches. In this particular speech, however, I learned much more. We were each placed in groups, and those groups were each assigned a side to a debate topic. My group was given the argument that euthanasia should be legalized. When we were first placed in groups, I was ecstatic that I would be able to work with my friends. However, I soon discovered that neither of them had the initiative to begin the task at hand. While I began my work promptly, they did nothing during our class work time. I observed the other group, who was well-prepared, while we had next to nothing. In response to this conflict, I began to delegate tasks. Each day, I set goals to accomplish for each group member, including myself. I also encouraged discussion with my partners in order to stimulate talking points for our argument. Moreover, we all had different thoughts in the group, so we had to work at making the speech flow nicely. I reviewed each part and added transitions between topics to round out our speech. Because of this, we ended up with a well-researched, meticulously planned final product to back our argument.

Something as simple as a group project may not seem like a significant enough event to teach lessons, but that could not be farther from the truth. I learned how to delegate, work collaboratively, facilitate discussion, and create a cohesive product from multiple perspectives. These lessons can be applied to both college and the workplace. My current job is at a restaurant—a place where working together is crucial. I can use what I learned in public speaking class there, making me a better employee and coworker. I have already seen how these principles have influenced my life, and I believe that they will continue to do so.

Resume

VICTORIA REED
EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
2018-2022
NORTHEASTERN CLINTON CENTRAL SCHOOL

	<u>Grade</u>			
	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>
SCHOLARSHIP				
English Comp I and II AS through Paul Smith's College				X
AS American Government through Paul Smith's College				X
AS Macroeconomics through Paul Smith's College				X
Statistics AS through Paul Smith's College				X
Finite Math AS through Paul Smith's College				X
AS Biology through Paul Smith's College				X
CAP IV French through Clinton Community College			X	
CAP American History			X	
Honors English	X	X		
Honors Global Studies	X	X		
Honors Living Environment		X		
SPORTS/SPORTS AWARDS				
Track and Field Manager			X	X
Basketball Manager				X
SCHOOL AWARDS				
Consecutive High Honor Roll Award	X	X	X	X
Perfect Attendance Award			X	
Excellence in Social Studies Award			X	
Elmira Scholarship			X	
St. Michael's College Book Award			X	
CLUBS/TRIPS				
National Honor Society				X
Yearbook Club				X
CFES Brilliant Pathways Scholar				X
North Country Model United Nations	X	X		
Beekmantown Model United Nations	X			
French Club			X	
Suicide Prevention Conference			X	

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	<u>Grade</u>			
	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>
COMMUNITY SERVICE				
Big Change Roundup for the UVM Children's Hospital	X	X	X	X
Adult school tours for interviewees			X	
Volunteer @ local church	X	X	X	X
EMPLOYMENT				
Tutoring		X		
Devyn's Creemee Stand		X		
Babysitting				X
Ruthcliffe Lodge and Restaurant			X	X
Hackett's Apple Orchard				X