

Describe one specific example of your leadership. (The writer of your letter of recommendation re: Leadership Abilities and Potential must confirm this experience.)

Having my video played in front of the country's top political analysts left me visibly shaking, but I realized it was a unique chance to have my generation's voice heard and encourage leaders to address the issues my peers felt were most important.

During the fall, I volunteered as a Student Ambassador for the annual political summit of the Bipartisan Policy Center. This center is led by former bipartisan political leaders encouraging current leaders to work across the aisle when governing. My responsibilities included registering college students to attend and encouraging them to enter a video in the Viral Video Contest as a way to share their views on politics.

As a member of the Video Committee, I helped in the creation and technical production of the videos. Because entries were scarce, I decided to create my own. Editing and producing a three-minute video was fairly straightforward. I conducted ten interviews with my peers across LSU's campus, asking questions about what they would wish to see changed in politics, and what major issue they thought should be addressed more. Answers like healthcare, the environment, higher education mandates and gay rights were prevalent. We wished to see our leaders concentrate more on the people they represent, rather than on inadequate politically-motivated compromises.

I spent three hours stringing together a smooth video that highlighted my classmates' concerns. My video won the contest and was shown at the Summit in front of notable political contributors such as Mary Matalin and James Carville.

I had successfully voiced my generation's opinions, ignited conversation and prompted thought concerning issues facing our nation today. This fired me up and I realized our voices need to be louder. My generation must reignite the spark of political interest in order to persuade leaders to shift their perspective to the people. Not everyone can have a video shown, but everyone should feel like his voice is heard.

Describe a recent particularly satisfying public service activity (do not repeat experience described in 7).

As a member of Delta Gamma sorority, I contribute to our national philanthropy, Service for Sight, which benefits those who are visually impaired by providing glasses, guide dogs, transportation assistance, and funding. My chapter's local contribution to Service for Sight is through the Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired. By participating in activities such as Karaoke Nights, Halloween Dances, and Bingo Nights at the school, I am humbled to see how excited the children are to tell us stories about their families, interests, and what they learned at school that day.

My work with Service for Sight means even more to me with the recent blindness of my grandfather. An Air Force fighter pilot in World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War, he suffered from macular degeneration, attended the VA School for the Blind, and now lives independently without sight. Like the children at LSVI, he is bursting to show me a new skill or piece of technology that enables him to live more easily.

I am especially proud of our annual "LSU Fan Day" in which we invite the children of LSVI to meet prominent athletes and coaches of LSU's prized athletic teams. Last year football players Charles Scott and Russell Shepard shared their stories of rough upbringings to becoming award-winning college athletes. The meaning behind the children's beaming expressions was clear—they took these stories to heart and identified with others who have overcome hardships. Serving these students is preparing me for a lifetime in service; it is important for everyone to feel inspired and motivated to make a difference, whether it's in themselves or in the broader world of politics.