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1605 Amsterdam Avenue,

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Dear Professor Skelly:

I am excited about Writing for the Sciences because I want to easily read and comprehend scientific writing. As a Biomedical Sciences major, my curriculum requires that I understand large scientific texts, which can be quite taxing and frustrating. Even nightly textbook readings cause a lot of stress and require a lot of effort. I hope Writing for the Sciences also gives me ideas on how to write scientifically. I participated in research in high school and often just followed instructions on how to write. I never fully grasped and learned how to produce the type of scientific writing necessary for publications. I am considering continuing research in my undergraduate years, and possibly in my graduate years, so it is essential that I first acquire and then hone that skill. I hope Writing for the Sciences will give me the confidence to approach any large scientific text with ease. I also think Writing for the Sciences will expose me to different pools of academic and specifically scientific writing that I have yet to be exposed to.

My journey with science began early. It has always come naturally to me as I typically seek solutions to various curiosities. One of my first core memories in science was when I was four or five years old. I was in Hofstra University's Gifted Child Summer Program. Here, my love for science was born. I vividly remember labeling a skeletal diagram, being amazed, and having this insatiable curiosity that persists to this day. My love for elementary Science Lab classes in elementary and middle school evolved into a love for the hands-on research I assisted in during high school.

I first joined research in the summer of 2020. I worked with Dr. William Gillis on expanding and developing his Developmental Cell Atlas which is pending publication of which I will be the first author, conducted in-depth research and provided written summaries, focused on mapping out the genes needed in the embryo to form the neural crest to improve awareness on prenatal developmental biology. In October of the same year, I participated in the Health Professions Recruitment and Exposure Program at The Sophie Davis Biomedical Education Program/CUNY School of Medicine where I gained knowledge, experience, and guidance in medicine and interacted with and was mentored by physicians and medical school students.

After the program ended, I searched for additional research opportunities. I applied and was accepted into the research program at the Brookhaven National Lab. I worked alongside top researchers on conducting fieldwork, compiled written reports to be used in lab publications, studied the differences in the dynamism in the protein behavior based on the different conformations of their molecules and how they affect the functional pathways, and produced graphs that will be used in further research. In addition to this extracurricular research, I enrolled in many advanced science and English courses over my high school career that helped prepare me to take Writing for the Sciences and to pursue a career in medicine.

Sincerely,

Sarah Vincent