Stephany Tsai

November 10, 2011

Resume:

**O B J E C T I V E**

To complete and submit an essay to the Witmart Youth English Essay Competition

**E D U C A T I O N**

Junior, Stephen F. Austin High School, Fort Bend ISD, Sugar Land, Tx

**A C H I E V E M E N T S**

**Academic:**

Silver Award; Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council (2009)

Math Excellence Award (2009-2010)

Academic Excellence Award (2010-2011)

Gold Award; Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council (2011)

**Music & Arts:**

 Houston International Festival- Asian Dance (1999-2005)

World Of Music Test; WOM Award for all years (Grade 1-6)

Theory Test; Primary and Whitlock Theory Award for all years (Grade 1- 10)

Houston Forum Young Artists Competition; Finalist, Superior Award, & Honorable Mention (May 3, 2003)

Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music; passed with distinction (2004-2005)

Sweepstakes (all 1s) UIL Concert/ Sight Reading Orchestra (2006-2010)

 TMEA All Region Orchestra (2007-2009)

 Performed At American String Teachers Association with the Sartartia Symphony Orchestra; Atlanta, Georgia (2009)

 National Federation of Music Clubs Gold Cup Award (2004-2011)

 Texas Federation of Music Clubs All State Festival; Outstanding Rating (May 22, 2010)

TMEA All-State Orchestra Try-Outs (2010)

Annual High School Musical: Ragtime (2011)- Pianist

Showcase of Music at Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center; Chamber Pianist & Philharmonic Violinist; Dallas, Tx (2011)

TMEA All-State Winner (2011)- Pianist

**Language:**

 Chinese Speech Competition (2nd Place)

Chinese Language Course; Fort Bend Community Church, Institute of Chinese Culture, &Chinese Community Center (1999--)

 Spanish Language Course; Sartartia MS & Austin HS (Level I, II, III)

**L E A D E R S H I P, M E M BE R S H I P, & C O M M U N I T Y S E R V I C E**

Girl Scouts (Junior, Cadette, & Senior 2005-2011)

Fort Bend ISD Orchestra Camp- Concert Master (2007)

Jiali, Taiwan Mission Trip- Classroom Teacher’s Aid (2008)

Sartartia MS Orchestra- Principle Violinist (2008-2009)

Austin HS Orchestra- Violinist & Pianist (2009-2011)

Awana Clubs- Table Leader (2009-2011)

Red Cross; Austin HS - Member (2009-2011)

30 Hour Famine - Participant (2009-2010)

National Youth Leadership Forum (2010)

Houston Food Bank – Volunteer Program (2010)

Good Will – Volunteer Program (2011--)

National Art Honor Society (2011--)

Essay:

My Parents

 As a student, I often see my parents as rather annoying and petty about the smallest things that I do. Perhaps, one can say, that I am simply going through the natural phase of being a rebellious teenager, a phase of life, which cannot be avoided, and, well, simply hits one with a sudden urge to ignore, argue, or even fight with their parents. Cliché phrases such as “you don’t understand” or “you don’t even know what being a teenager is like” have been equally used on my part and I had no intention of backing down to my own perception of right and wrong. However, only after having gone through a recent realization that my parents really did have my best interests in their minds, did I slowly begin to appreciate the little things that they have done for me and continue to do.

 Being the stereotypical Asians they were, my parents urged me to practice the piano night and day. There was not one day where I was not bugged about practicing piano. And, of course, being the rebellious teenager that I was, I naturally replied with the overused “I don’t have time” excuse. They would let me off the hook for a while, but after several peeks through the door to my bedroom and seeing me on Facebook, they would return to their old ways, except for this time, they would pester me about the amount of time I was wasting and how I could be using it for, none other than, piano. To this I would reply back with the excuse that I was just taking a short five-minute break. Truth was, these breaks happened more than just once in a while and in no time, my parents installed a website blocking program. At this point, I had enough with the unfair, or so I thought, treatment that my parents had given me. First, annoying me every five seconds and now getting in the way of my social life? I had enough! But there was nothing I could do now, so to get my parents off my back, I started to practice piano.

 Sooner than later, piano practicing became a habit and I soon found myself enrolled in a piano competition. As the days neared, I felt myself get more and more nervous. In times of frustration, I would always condemn myself for not getting a head start on the music, which followed with a reminder to myself that if my parents had not urged me to practice that I would have been in a more severe situation than I was currently in. In times of triumph, I would secretly be glad that my parents had pushed me to practice.

 The competition date finally came and moments before the big audition, I sat on the piano bench to think to myself how far I had come and how much I had accomplished, but all that went through my head was how much my parents had worked to get me to practice and to get me this far. The audition was over before I knew it and when the results came out, the judges announced that I had won first place. Pure joy and happiness ran through my body that day and all I could say was thank you, mommy and daddy. Thank you for urging me to practice. Thank you for bringing me this far.

 From that day on, my perspective on my parents’ motives changed drastically. From the premature idea that my parents were only trying to torture me with piano to the renewed idea that they wanted me to succeed, my opinions towards my parents’ actions were fairly differentiated. My parents were, so to say, a lighthouse’s single ray of light that guided the ship, the misunderstanding version of myself, to the shore, a broadened spectrum of knowledge and pathway to success. Because without the single ray of light, the ship would be lost in the dark and would never find its way to the shore. And to my parents, I thank them for teaching me this incredible lesson, one that I could never be able to learn on my own.