Essay 3:

The intense language experience CLS program provides will certainly have tremendous influence on my studies and my career goal in Middle Eastern diplomacy. As an undergraduate and a double major in International Studies and Anthropology I am also planning to complete a minor in Arabic. I will be required to take at least three more Arabic courses after next summer. In addition, I plan on taking Islamic studies courses as well as political science courses on the Middle East. I also am looking into study abroad programs in other Arabic speaking countries. Specifically, I would like to study at either the American University in Cairo in Egypt or the American University in Beirut in Lebanon. For future career endeavors, I would like to develop at least some dialectical skills in every Arabic speaking country.

Because my school offers Arabic as only a minor I am limited in my course selection. However, I hope that by the time I am a junior it will also be offered as a major. I have talked to my professor and a group of students about requesting the deans of my university to provide the resources so that they can offer Arabic as a major. If we are able to gather enough support and interest in studying the language, Case Western may provide us with further resources and new professors that will improve Arabic and Islamic studies.

I would also like to travel to the Middle East informally with my family. Specifically, I am interested in visiting the abundant ancient architectural marvels all throughout the region such as Petra in Jordan. However, I would like to be a tourist that knows the language of the country in which I am traveling. Thus, I will integrate Arabic into both my personal experiences as well as my academic pursuits.