Essay 4:

From a very young age, I have been able to adapt well in social situations. I am sociable and energetic in even the most diverse group settings. Because I handle stress well, I project my optimism and amicability, which allows me to befriend people very quickly.

In 2008 I auditioned for a band and choir program called American Music Abroad that brought students from around the country to perform in small venues across Europe. This experience familiarized me with experiencing different people in foreign settings. I only spent four weeks with those musicians but we shared incredibly emotional moments throughout the trip.

During the Summer of 2009, working at Cradle Beach Camp, a camp for disabled and disadvantaged children, was one of the most eye-opening experiences for me. It was a twenty-four hour job and up to sixteen of those hours were spent awake and alert, looking after children. I worked with rude and sometimes violent children from the inner-city as well as children who have physical and mental impairments. Most of the campers came from vastly different backgrounds than me and I learned a lot from them. Despite their negative and debilitating attributes, I loved these unlikely campers. There is an underlying unity among all people, no matter where they come from or what adversities they may have faced.

I am an avid traveler. Within the US I have visited many states, which often have unique cultures. Internationally, I have traveled through many countries in Europe and in India. I am familiar with being in cultural situations that I am not used to in the States. These have given me an insight into what life and culture is like in other areas of the world. I am not only prepared but excited for the rigorous and immersive learning experience that CLS will offer me.