



Dear XXXXX:

I hope your new year is off to a great start. My name is XXXXX and I was deferred from Harvard in December. Although I am disappointed, I understand that you have a very competitive pool of candidates. Please note that despite the deferral, I am more motivated than ever to demonstrate that I would be a strong student at your university and that Harvard is undoubtedly my top choice.

I believe that my school counselor, XXXXXX, forwarded my first trimester grades to you. I am still working hard at a high level in all of my current classes. In my math seminar course, we have been assigned a paper about a property of parabolas inscribed within triangles that we find interesting. The particular paper that I am writing, however, is one about a property that my teacher does not think has been proven yet, or even examined for that matter. My group and I are working hard to outline a method for proof, and if we do end up being able to prove our property, we may write a formal paper for publication.

I am also continuing my extracurricular involvement as a senior editor on *The Review*. We wanted to be sure that the quality of the first issue was superlative. This proved to be no small feat, as we adjusted to training a completely new group of associate editors. I am pleased to report that the first issue and subsequent ones have met the highest standard.

Athletically, I still define myself as a “climber” but have joined the winter track team and will be the Varsity Tennis Captain this spring. Running has long been one of my goals to improve my aerobic endurance – something which climbers (and especially boulderers) tend to lack. The goal I set for myself at the start of the season was to be able to run ten miles at a good pace, and just this last weekend I ran a half marathon in Central Park in just under two hours. I am proud of my accomplishment and I look forward to running in several events this spring in order to raise money for cancer research. Running will bridge my athleticism and ongoing internships at Memorial Sloan Kettering.

As I am sure you read in my essay, climbing is my emotional and athletic release, and my weekly sojourn to Brooklyn, just to climb, has been an integral part of my high school experience. Admittedly, I would like to create a community of climbers at XXXXX and, ideally, leave with it as part of my legacy. The first step is to encourage XXXXX to build a climbing wall, which would be used for recreation as



well as physical education. And, to that end, I will offer to spearhead a fundraising effort as a senior project.

In addition to my athletic pursuits, I always find time to paint my War Hammer miniatures. My penchant for painting has led me to be more diligent with ceramics and more abstract pieces. They are the culmination of my experimenting with dry throwing – a technique in which one does not make a cup or bowl while the clay is wet but instead allows a centered chunk of clay to dry to the point where one can carve the bowl or cup out of it. This allows for sharper lines and thinner walls than one can achieve in traditional throwing, and have influenced the way I view the medium. I have been collaborating with a classmate of mine, exploring various facets of wheel throwing in an ongoing exhibition in which we actually throw various forms in the gallery with people looking in, focusing not on the finished product but on the movement of the clay being formed into something beautiful. The paper covered floor on which we work is now covered in various forms, some left in tact, some thrown haphazardly, some failed experiments and some great triumphs, all left to harden and eventually be recycled, as is the transient nature of the medium.

I hope this additional information helps you to see my versatility as a student, athlete and artist. I truly believe that I would thrive at Harvard where many students are equally as curious and accomplished. All of these facets encompass who I am and I eager to share them with the Harvard community. I am committed to Harvard and believe this letter reinforces my strong desire to attend. If you would like any additional information to support my application, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

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Type Your Full Name Here