

Dear Student,

I hope this letter finds you well. I grew up in Detroit and lived there for 22 years. Currently I work in the City, right on Woodward Avenue, at Wayne State University. There is no doubt in my mind that I will live in this area for the rest of my life, so perhaps our paths will one day cross. The coolest people I've met, the sweetest jobs I've held, the awesome University I attended and the important work I do now has all sourced from this great city. It is difficult to think about how I can repay this place, but I'm going to try.

Detroit has not always made things easy, but sometimes the best things in life are worth fighting for. My family and I all defected from Communist Poland and immigrated to Detroit starting in 1968 with my grandmother. I came over in 1985. We couldn't speak English and we were always poor, but we stuck together in Warrendale, our west side neighborhood. Most of my family still lives there and they're not moving any time soon.

My experience has been this: life's not fair. Not for you, not for me, not really for anyone. However, if you take advantage of each opportunity you can, you can achieve greatness. I recommend keeping your eyes peeled for a community mentor. This community is vibrant and diverse and has a lot to offer by way of fantastic people. If you get involved with the community, you will find those people and opportunities. In fact, the more involved you get, the more people and opportunities will find you. They found me.

This City needs amazing people, people like you, to realize itself. Have a great school year,

Eva G.

*"You read a book, you meet a person, you have a single experience, and your life is changed in some way. No act, therefore, however small, should be dismissed or ignored." ~Howard Zinn*