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To whom it may concern:

In 2005 I was lucky to come upon an application to Higher Heights Youth Empowerment Programs, Inc. From there, my journey escalated upward.

Higher Heights is not only an SAT prep program, but a future prep program as well. It is designed to help inner-city youth gain the opportunity to access a future that may seem inaccessible. The SAT prep classes along with the college 101 workshops give students the knowledge they need to get into college.

The SAT prep course is administered at a cost that is reasonable for teens like me that may come from low-income families or single-parent homes, and may not have the funds to enter into a Princeton Review prep course. With all of the knowledge I gained from these prep classes, I was able to raise my SAT score 200 points higher than it was originally. This made a difference when it came time to apply to college, as many students struggle to get accepted because of low SAT scores.

The college workshops work hand-in-hand with the SAT prep classes. Once students gain the skills needed to beat the SAT, they then are given information about college basics that many first generation college students are unable to gain from their parents. From financial aid help, to the breaking down of the application process itself, students are able to get a head start on the time-consuming process of getting into college and paying for it. I was able to practice filling out actual applications, write sample college essays, and learn everything a student needs to know about the FAFSA and financial aid through Higher Heights.

Higher Heights reaches out to those in inner-city communities who may not have the resources to tackle the SAT and the college application process. By doing so, Higher Heights gives students a chance to succeed and move forward, even if the odds are against them. Higher Heights is an excellent opportunity for students to fulfill their post-secondary dreams; this program has helped me to get into college, and I'm sure it will do the same for many other students as the program continues to grow.

Sincerely,

Jazmyn Thompson
Student Board Member