

Angelica Martini

SUM 400

Dr. N. Stammant

28 September 2020

Connections Essay

My name is Angelica Martini, and I am currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and International Relations at Agnes Scott College. My two disciplines at the undergraduate level have allowed me to build a better understanding of what it means to live in a time of rapid globalization: a nation's domestic and foreign policy is grounded in the economic interactions in the international sphere. I have seen this while studying eCommerce at universities across China as well as discussing Ghanaian fair trade businesses in Accra. As I work toward the completion of my degree, I aspire to continue my education at the graduate level, specifically pursuing a master's of science in international economic policy. By continuing my education, I hope to build the quantitative skills necessary to construct strong international economic policy through employment with the World Bank or International Monetary Fund.

I am not simply a student - I am a futurist and a competitor. I have a focus. I am restorative. I am a learner. I am a lot of things, but I believe that these five qualities best reflect my unique strengths. Further, I am a leader who looks to the horizon and plans to overcome inevitable hurdles. My resilience and futurist mindset have been my greatest strengths - uplifting me through the challenges of being a first-generation college student and a person with a

disability. In addition, I seek knowledge to simply know and to understand. This is reflected in my diverse academic portfolio that showcases my affinity for learning regardless of the topic. I have studied history, economics, computer programming, data analytics, business, art, political science, and language - all in addition to my core studies.

I feel very fortunate to have been educated under the SUMMIT curriculum at Agnes Scott College where students are prepared to lead effectively in a global society. In particular, one of the SUMMIT learning outcomes is for students to identify, explain, and analyze global themes, processes, and systems. In my first year at the college, I was placed in a course titled Race and Place, Past and Present: Ghana, where my classmates and I studied the impact of the African Slave Trade from its inception to the present day. During the course, the class traveled around Ghana for ten days visiting historic sites like the Cape Coast Castle and the Elmina Castle - two sites where the transatlantic slave trade lays its origin. Now as a senior, I am enrolled in a course on economic development. We often discuss how the lingering effects of colonialism and slavery on Sub-Saharan Africa have posed some of the most difficult challenges for development, one being the global division of wealth. My ability to make the connection between core subjects and global themes, processes, and systems is a skill I will carry with me throughout my career as it is vital to have this understanding when researching the best policy for economic development.

In order to conduct research and contribute meaningful work to the community of international economic researchers, another SUMMIT learning outcome is vital: to recognize, analyze, and evaluate arguments. As well, this outcome fits nicely with one learning outcome for students majoring in international relations, which is to write well-organized, persuasive, and original essays and research papers, using appropriate citations. I have, undoubtedly, written

many academic research papers throughout my undergraduate career. Some of my favorites include “¿Dónde están las Mujeres?: Machismo is The Conflict in Venezuela,” “Syrian Emigration From the Ottoman Empire: An Analysis of Economic and Political Determinants (1839-1914), and “NAFTA Trumps Protectionism: A Neoclassical Liberal’s Approach.” I believe these learning objectives have provided me strong written and verbal communication skills that will serve me well as a graduate student and future economist. Above all, the ability to analyze an argument and communicate effectively are important life skills in a time of easily accessible information. Because of the learning objective associated with SUMMIT and my major in international relations, I will leave college a critical thinker.

Excelling to meet the learning objectives of my two majors and the SUMMIT curriculum before graduation has allowed me to participate in internships that have aided my understanding of concepts in my core subjects. For example, a learning outcome for students studying economics is to understand regulatory, fiscal, and monetary policy. In my sophomore year, I was invited to participate in an internship at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta where I worked on a survey that measured business leader’s uncertainty during the US-China Trade War. While I had studied the importance of the Federal Reserve System in class, it was impactful to experience firsthand how data collected from business owners influenced monetary policy and the forecast of the economy. In time, I hope to find employment at an international organization, so understanding the significance of monetary, regulatory, and fiscal policy through the Central Bank of the United States was a significant experience that I will carry with me for the rest of my life.

I am extremely excited to represent my undergraduate experiences through various

artifacts found in my digital portfolio. In this portfolio, you will find the articles mentioned above along with pictures from my study abroad experiences in China and Ghana. You will also find my resume which details my relevant work experience along with links to projects that were conducted at various sites listed on the resume.

As I reflect on the last four years, I recognize that this unique educational journey has unveiled to me who I am and what I care for. I am a citizen of the world, and with that citizenship comes the responsibility to stay true to the Agnes Scott mission, which calls students to engage the social and intellectual challenges of our time. I care to engage these challenges but also aid the world in overcoming the challenges. Now that I have reached the end of my journey at Agnes Scott, I confidently say that I have the skills to think deeply, live honorably, and to promote equity in our global society.