

**Think about yourself 10 years in the future. What do you think the world might look like?**

**How will you contribute to that world?**

Thinking about myself ten years in the future is, on its face, a very simple prompt, requiring a relatively simple response. At this time, I have a very solid concept of what the next ten years of my life will look like: four years of undergraduate school at the historic Morehouse college, two years on Wall Street at a major investment bank, two years at a top-tier business school to obtain my MBA, and the remaining length of the ten years beginning my career in investment banking and consulting. However, as I am soon matriculating to Morehouse College, the world around me is simultaneously changing. As a result, answering the question: “What do you think this world might look like?” becomes quickly a more complex conundrum.

This essay submission comes at a time of unrest in the world. Currently, the world is braving the COVID-19 pandemic, battling climate change, and bracing for the future of an Earth that is becoming overpopulated. In America specifically, we are facing our own national problems. This submission comes only days after George Floyd was murdered by a Minneapolis, Minnesota police officer in a case of social injustice, resulting in people of all kinds leading demonstrations, both for the good and the bad. Yes, the issue of riots across America and the global pandemic are problems of today, but they are only rain drops under a massive umbrella of issues prevalent in today’s society. The issues of racism, sexism, oppression, and discrimination are felt across the world, in all cultures. The issue of health and healthcare for all is an issue felt across the world and most specifically in the United States. The issue of climate change and global warming are issues, literally, felt across the world. My generation is taught to not only

learn academic material, but to become “thinkers”. These “thinkers” are tasked with solving these major global problems. However, until my generation is able to go out into the world and create real change, say for the next ten years, the world will continue to spiral out of control in opposing directions.

Although I have an optimistic perspective, my optimism cannot be mistaken for accepting the world as it exists. Everyone likes to see the hope for humanity in the future, but also use this statement to further push off fixing global issues like these. In ten years, the world could consist of more inequality than ever before. This does not only mean social inequality, but economic inequality as well. As time advances, technology, innovation, and invention will be at an all-time high. While some say that technology is the answer to many of our problems, it may also be doing more harm than good. One outcome is that technology results in the rich becoming richer, and the poor becoming poorer, further dividing and classifying society.

As technology grows, more energy will need to be consumed. The issue of clean energy in our world is also a prominent problem. As we produce more “dirty” energy, the carbon levels in our atmosphere will rise at an exponentially alarming rate. The rising temperatures in our atmosphere will cause rising sea levels, deteriorating air quality, and habitat destruction for a variety of species. Wildfires will rage across our forests that give us oxygen, hurricanes will amass stronger winds than ever recorded, and earthquakes will cripple the infrastructures of many cities.

As our world begins to face the terrors of mother nature, more and more people will need to seek aid. Our population will be the largest and most unstable, as Earth approaches maximum sustainable capacity. However, as the population increases, the percentage of people with access to sufficient healthcare decreases.

As I have outlined, the world over the next ten years seems as though it will be on the decline. Until world leaders, and a majority of Earth's occupants, are able to come together, a long term or permanent solution will not be found. So, how will I contribute to this world?

In simple terms, I will not. I will not contribute to a world that further destroys the Earth itself nor will I contribute to a world where the rich thrive based on how poor they can make others. Many in society believe that as time progresses, the world will become a better place; that time will fix the wounds of social inequality and that technology will miraculously rid us of the abyss that the lower-class is consumed in today. However, without a resurgence of action for a better society, there is no room for positive change. As a global citizen, I cannot make a deposit, or contribution, into this type of world. Nevertheless, I can make a withdrawal. A withdrawal, in this case, is working towards undoing the grave and negative deposits that we have been sewing into our world for decades.

Many people have told me that you should not choose your career based off of the salary you will earn. Although I am highly interested in the field of business, money is a constant motivator. However, I am not motivated by money for my sole benefit. As I have grown up, I have come to see that money means success, success means power, and power creates change. I

want to begin the change that people hope to see in the world. Using my personal success, I hope to be able to network with organizations, corporations, world leaders, and individual communities in order to search for the answers to these persisting global issues. My success will be everyone's success. Therefore, my power will be everyone's power. With all in power, the stage is set for change: the change everyone hopes to see in the world.