Richard Jones
South High School

Clarkstown Education Foundation: Scholarship Awards Application

I step out into the sunlight. It is a reasonably cold morning; a dull roar is more than just audible. As the sunlight finally reaches my eyes, I look to my right and left. There stand my family, friends, and supporters. After taking a breath, I look out ahead of me, slowly winding my sight down the reflecting pool, at a mall satiated with masses of citizens. I have just been elected President of the United States, and it is the morning of my inauguration. As I prepare to make my speech to the public awaiting to hear what I have to say, I take a moment to think of how I came to be where I landed, the people who helped me along the way, those who fought against me, and the promises I had made the American public.

At last, as I finally step up to the podium, ready to inspire and encourage the masses both standing in front of me and watching me via the media, I wake up.

Okay, so maybe I wasn't elected President of the United States, but that doesn't mean that I can't dream of the day I may one day take that podium, or even ponder about my ideal platform. In today's constantly fluctuating economy, issues regarding this facet of society would be at the top of my list, specifically matters regarding foreign trade. In today's continuously growing international economy, the protection of one's own economy and work force is increasingly important. As the United States trades with other nations, there can be unequal trade agreements, usually regarding the inequalities of tariffs. For instance, if we do not have a trade tariff with Spain, while they do (at least in this situation), our trading will be unequal. We will be able to buy cheaper products from the Spanish economy, leading to higher employment rates and national income in the

Spanish economy. Spain, on the other hand would, instead of buying from the U.S., would produce those necessary items in its own economy, again benefiting the Spanish people. The U.S., on the other hand, is left with negligible positive effects on the economy. This is a common situation in international trade today and could explain the rising unemployment rates in our economy.

Now this seems like a pretty straight-forward problem, but the solution is not as simple, or at least the execution thereof is not. One of the simpler, and one of my more favorable, solutions to this problem would be the greater implementation of tariffs on foreign goods in today's international market. This would pressure the American people to buy products produced from the American economy instead of the more expensive foreign products. This would greatly stimulate the economy, especially in some specifically suffering industries. As the companies brought in more profit, they would expand, hopefully enough to lower the unemployment rates in many areas in the United States. The trade agreements between the United States and other countries would be more balanced, hopefully raising the value of the American dollar in the international economy. This would decrease the rate of inflation that we are always dealing with in our economy today. The combination of these positive effects on the American economy would hopefully ameliorate the period of stagflation that the American public is forced to deal with every day.

So, maybe I'm not the President of the United States, yet, but I have definitely have put some thought to what I would do if I am ever to be granted this responsibility. Hopefully, a plan similar to the one I have described will be put into action. Everybody is affected by the economy, so hopefully people will begin to realize that the solution

begins with one step at a time. By making small steps towards bettering the economy, we can all take action to ameliorate the situation that we find ourselves in today.