

Throughline Conference Letter (9th Grade)--Letter from Parents

Dear [REDACTED] –

Wow, does time go fast. It's hard to believe you are already at the halfway point of your first year of high school. It seems you have started your high school experience in a positive way and really enjoyed this year to date. It is our hope that you will finish this year strong and wrap-up a successful freshman year.

As requested for this mid-year conference, we have discussed and considered the two “throughlines” that we see most displayed and exhibited in your life. We felt the first throughline was very evident and without a doubt your strongest throughline that we see at this point in your life. It is our hope that you will continue to invest in this throughline and strength in your life as it seems to be an area you are most interested in, enjoy and find fulfilling. There were several throughlines that we discussed and considered as your second most prominent throughline that we see. Our belief is that likely this second throughline may continue to change and evolve during your high school career.

- **Throughline No. 1: Beauty-Creator**

- o We firmly believe that God has created you with artistic skills and the ability and talent to create artwork and projects that display the unique skills God has granted you and you can glorify him through the use of your creative skills.
- o We see this on a consistent basis through art projects from art class and your drawings or miscellaneous projects in other school courses but also your creativity and giftedness shines through in the various objects you make or create at home utilizing a plethora of random items and things we have around the house and garage (wood, art supplies, etc.).
- o Further, your brain has been created to be able to conceptually think about building structure of objects and how to fix various items that are not working properly (a talent and skill that neither of your parents certainly passed on).
- o We see you most joyful and fulfilled when you are creating and building. Our hope is that you may continue to consider this even down the road as you consider career paths and opportunities to explore further.
- o As your parents, we fully recognize this is not either of our strengths or primary throughlines, but we are committed to try and position you to continue utilizing these types of skills and talents that the Lord has blessed you with and are evidence already to this point in your life.

- **Throughline No. 2: Creation-Enjoyer**

- o While we discussed and debated numerous other throughlines that we see as your second strongest specific throughline, ultimately, we landed on this throughline over Order-Discoverer and Community-Builder.
- o It is clear that you thoroughly enjoy spending time outdoors specifically enjoying the creation that the Lord has made – water and fishing, woods and fields for hunting, just to cite a couple of examples.
- o We see in your life that when you are outdoors and enjoying creation, you are very happy and fulfilled and this energizes you further.
- o Creation elements – strong winds, cold temperatures, lots of snow, etc. do not deter you away in any way and in fact almost seem to draw you in further in your enjoyment of God's creation.
- o As your parents, we see the potential for this throughline and area also as a path to opportunities you should continue to consider and explore in relation to future career choices (perhaps a DNR warden, fishing conservation specialist, etc.).
- o These areas and enjoying God's creation seems to draw you closer to Him and also seems to inspire more curiosity, learning, and a desire to explore more about His creation and nature.
- o You are knowledgeable far beyond either of your parents in many areas of creation-enjoyment (wildlife, fishing, hunting, outdoor ecosystems and understanding, etc.) and there seems to be a consistent, genuine interest in learning more in this arena.

We are enjoying seeing you develop and be molded in high school and hope this assessment of your top throughlines or evidence of such is affirming to you as you personally reflect and assess on how God has created you in a unique way.

Mom and Dad

Throughline Conference Letter (10th Grade)--Letter from Student's Advisor

Dear [REDACTED],

First of all, thanks for being you! Even though we know from God's Word that you are a work in progress, we also know these two truths: you are an image-reflector of God, so you have innate beauty just because of that, and we know that God has promised that he will carry the work that he began in you to completion in Christ Jesus. For both of those things, we give God praise and celebrate who you are because of him. I have enjoyed getting to know you as a member of our advisory the past two years and look forward to knowing you better.

I know we've talked about this before, but I think it's worth saying again. Your strengths really align well for being a strong Community-builder. First of all, you're just a likable person:). You smile a lot and make it easy for others to join in on a conversation with you. But more than that, having both the strength of Command and Restorative puts you in a position for confidence AND humility. What a great combination for God to develop you as a servant leader! As I watch you interact with others, it is clear that you enjoy people. And because of your Self Assurance, your individual needs don't get in the way of being able to reach out, connect, and serve the needs of others around you. And, in fact, your strength of Adaptability allows you to show others that it isn't "your way or the highway". You can consider other perspectives or change directions, and that can be a really great quality for collaborating with others.

I also see Order-discoverer in you. You really love the way things work and how things work together. I see that in the way you choose topics for SIP, and the excitement you show during presentations, when you get to explain it to others. Along with that thinking about order and how things work is considering how they SHOULD work. I see you considering that with projects such as your project on "Nepotism". As a growing critical and Christian thinker, those strengths put you in a great position to be an Idolatry-discerner.

As I looked back at your letter from last year, your parents did a great job of encouraging you and cautioning you. We all need both! So here's my caution, which I hope also serves as an encouragement. Your self confidence, self assuredness and critical thinking skills could make it difficult for you to work with others—especially when important decisions need to be made. It can be easy to become impatient (especially when you are an efficient person yourself). So I encourage you to consider the time and space that people need in the process of group decision making—or the time and space people might need under your leadership to get on board with decisions. As you begin to find yourself and/or choose to put yourself into leadership positions, that will be an important part of leading well.

Be encouraged! You were created to bear God's image. You were blessed to be a blessing. I will pray earnestly that you would continue to enjoy the goodness of God's world, and that God would use you to bring goodness to a world that is broken. Please know that God is walking with you, and I want to walk with you, as well, as you continue to learn and to grow. Please know that you can come to me at any time; I am willing to listen. I'm glad that God placed you in my advisory, and I am looking forward to the rest of the year!

Blessings,

[REDACTED]

Throughline Conference Letter (11th Grade)--Letter to Self

Dear [REDACTED],

Throughout this year I think you have grown and been leaning into your gifts and the throughlines of God Worshipper and Community Builder. I have seen the throughline of Community Builder in you throughout your involvement in praise team, theatre, and in general throughout this school year. I believe that you have the ability to be a strong leader and be a light of positivity in the community. I think that you have been able to reach outside of your own friend group to interact with younger students and more people even in your own grade to build stronger relationships and community. Community has always been a strong value to you, as you love engaging and interacting with others; in other words you love being a friend to all. In theatre you work to build a positive and encouraging learning environment with your peers and offer a helping hand when others ask, even when you could turn the other way. Theatre has always been a safe place for you and a place where you have been able to create strong relationships with people you may have never been able to get to know otherwise. In other aspects of school such as the praise team you work to build an inclusive and fun environment that encourages everyone to join and try new things. Overall, creating community is a strong value and gift that I think you have been engaging more and more throughout your time in high school.

The other throughline that you are most passionate about right now is God Worshipper. This has grown in importance to you throughout this last semester through the opportunities you have gotten in helping lead with [REDACTED]. You have always valued worship and the ideas of worshiping God in everything you do, whether that be theatre, dance, singing, or praise team. However, this leadership role has helped you to lean even more into this role of a God Worshipper. You have a deeper understanding of what it looks like to put God first and you second. Praise team is not to highlight you, it is to highlight our King and glorify him for everything he has done for us. These ideas were also encouraged when [REDACTED] led [REDACTED] and you through a Bible study last year of a book called *True Worshipers*. Overall, you have started to understand the true meaning of what it looks like to worship God through all things and this has been deeply encouraged through both your peers and teachers.

The throughlines that have been sticking out to you currently throughout your schoolwork are Justice Seeker, Idolatry Discerner, and Image Reflector. Both the throughlines of Justice Seeker and Idolatry Discerner have been shown to you in language arts and government class. Currently in language arts you have been working on the justice paper, and you are writing about euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide. This has proven to be a hard and difficult topic to discern and understand what is right in one instance and wrong in another. This topic has helped you to understand both the throughlines of Justice Seeker and Idolatry Discerner. These throughlines have also been apparent in government class as you have been learning about how past leaders have discerned through what to do when building our country and when looking at historic court cases throughout time. You have seen the throughline of Image Reflector, through Christian Thought and Apologetics, because you have been learning about how to defend our faith and what that looks like when trying to reflect who God is while doing so. Overall, all of these classes and throughlines have helped you to understand what it looks like to try and live out your life by following and focusing on God throughout the center of it all. All of these classes have taught you how to view things through a theistic worldview and understand your place in God's story.

Love,

[REDACTED]

Throughline Conference Letter (12th Grade)--Letter to Peer

Dear [REDACTED],

There is so much I could write in this letter about you. Firstly, I am so happy that you joined our Avail community freshmen year. You have added so much to our class and community, and I have been so blessed to have grown, become friends, and experienced high school with you these past few years.

I know that God has gifted you with many things that you have utilized during your time at Avail and will continue to lean into. The two throughlines I see in you are Justice Seeker and Community Builder. Hannah, you strive to seek Justice in our community and world. You are the first person to stand up for someone, call someone out, and openly share your take on subjects in class or conversations. I certainly have always enjoyed talking to you, even when we disagree, about real issues in our world. This innate sense of finding justice will prove to be valuable to you in the future, and I hope you never lose that. We live in a broken world that is filled with injustice, but I know you will continue to seek justice for God's kingdom.

The second throughline I see in you is Community Builder. You have the ability to make anyone feel welcome with your caring and engaging spirit. Not only are you a leader in volleyball, theatre, and advisory, you are a leader to the entire community. You always seek ways to make everyone feel included, and will be the first to approach a person sitting alone. I have experienced this first hand. You always check in on me, make sure I'm alright, and you always brighten my day with your witty comments and presence. This is the type of spirit that builds strong relationships and community.

I know you are going to be a force to be reckoned with when you enter the world. I hope that you find Jeremiah 29:11 to be a daily encouragement to you. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." I do not know how often our paths will meet after high school (I hope often, but I know life happens), but I do know that God holds the plans for your life. You are a light in this dark world; never forget that. Thank you for being an amazing friend to me and helping me along the way in this wild high school journey. I wish you all the best, and cannot wait to make even more memories with you in the time we have left!

[REDACTED]