

Esmæ King  
11<sup>th</sup> grade  
Davis High School  
Utah

## What Drives You?

Earth is facing a wide range of potentially disastrous problems, primarily caused by humans. As we speak, harmful pollutants are leaking into our previously fresh air, tropical rainforests are being destroyed at an alarming rate, and plastic garbage is building up replacing the once lush and green wildlife habitats. What will become of our planet if this continues? As the point of no return is quickly approaching, this challenge falls largely upon my generation. As a whole, we must work towards innovative solutions to live more sustainably and protect the only home we have. This is my driving force. Creating long-term goals that make a difference in the way we run our societies will be crucial for future generations. By engaging in open-minded compromises involving the global community, we can develop solutions together that will have a positive impact on our planet and the human race.

In fourth grade, I cleaned up litter and hundreds of glow-sticks in the St. George lava tubes for a service project. I realized how harmful this was to the environment, however it was easily preventable. Since then, my understanding and curiosity have grown. This became a starting point to my ambition in learning about the earth and why we need to protect it. I feel driven to raise awareness and encourage others about preserving our planet and doing my part to protect our natural resources.

This year I founded the Model United Nations club at my school. We simulate the real United Nations by representing various countries and are tasked with solving real-world problems. As president, I run weekly meetings where we learn and discuss current issues, how countries interact, and how to engage in global policy making. We are preparing to attend various conferences, including one in New York City, where we will interact with students from around the globe and combine our research and ideas to peacefully assess solutions. This experience has opened my eyes to the workings of our world and how we can come together to solve problems affecting everyone. I believe utilizing new advances in technology and communally committing to healthy lifestyles that preserve our natural resources will make a substantial difference. I hope to start a nationwide policy that will promote the use of sustainable practices and reduce unnecessary waste in our schools. This drives me to pursue a

college education that will enable me to become part of the solution and do what I can for our planet.

I plan to get my undergraduate degree in environmental science and then pursue a law degree. The environmental problems we are facing will not be solved immediately or even in my lifetime. However, by doing my part as an environmental attorney, I hope to create policies promoting conservation, aid in the search for realistic eco-friendly solutions and educate others on the harmful effects we impose so that our planet can thrive for generations to come.