My Journey as a Global Citizen Aralee Fajardo, Class of 2012

1. **Freshmen Orientation**

Freshmen Orientation opened my eyes into the world. When I was in middle school I had no motivation. I only came into the academy because I was interested to go to Japan because of my interest in manga and anime. In the orientation I felt I was in my group of people that were like me. Everyone was very mature, kind, and had an international desire like me. The orientation opened my mind into new possibilities and I had more passion to succeed in life and want to know the world more.

1. **International Business with Mrs. G**

In my freshmen and sophomore year, I was a perfect student who did her homework and did all the assignments on time. I had no motivation and no interest for all the subjects I took. All I knew was that I had to do well in all my classes to go to a good college and get a good- paying job. I only went to international business because a majority of my friends are going and Mrs. G, who was my freshman teacher was teaching the class. As soon I started this class I was so interested in how everything I do in life connects to the world. This class helped me find what I wanted to do in the future, which is majoring in International Business in the concentration of East Asia in ODU.

1. **Global Culture Project with Mrs. Windish**

This culture project that was quite lengthy and time-consuming helped me understand my heritage more and open my eyes to other cultures truly. This was really the first time a teacher praised my work and showed it to other teachers. I felt confident and knew what I was good at. I also bonded and started to know more about my classmates. I matured more to accept people more and not be ignorant on assumptions on different cultures.

1. **Global Systems**

Global Systems with Ms. Walker was a taste of the real world for me. I loved how this class took me out of my small bubble of a life and told me about current events that happened in the world, like the Middle East. I felt excited and open to find news on my own. This class made me read the newspaper for the first time based on curiosity at home. Also, I love how academy teachers reach out to the academy students. Ms. Walker is a collogue to me and I love how she talks about opportunities to me. I was involved in Model UN because of her and I am grateful to be involved in that experience.

1. **Virtual Enterprise with Mr. G**

Even though Virtual Enterprise is a regular year class, Mr. G was a benefit as an academy teacher. I knew Mr. G for 2 years and he knew what potential I had. He praised me and gave me opportunities in the class. This class showed me how hard I work under pressure and what I am skilled at. Again, I’m grateful to Academy teachers.