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# *Writer's Statement about "Preparing to Be a Doctor in High School: A Study of Underrepresented Pre-Medical Students' Gains from Advanced Placement (AP) Courses"*

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Conducting this research study was a great experience as it provided me with the opportunity to investigate a topic I was truly interested in learning more about. During the writing process, I found I struggled the most with the discussion section as I understood it was where I needed to clearly explain the significance of my findings and the impact it had for the field. Initially, I was overwhelmed with all the topics that were brought to light from my study because I knew I could not go into depth with all of them. After reviewing my findings several times and having the opportunity to share my research paper with other students through the online discussion, I found I knew what I needed to focus on. Talking with my professor and hearing his opinion was also extremely helpful. Different aspects of my paper which I thought I could probably make more clear—or explain in more detail—were quickly brought to my attention by the students. It always gave me a new area of focus and improvement. It was also nice to hear what I was doing well so that I could guide my attention towards the weaker areas of my essay to make my writing even stronger. Allowing my peers to read over my work was key in improving my essay. Their varied backgrounds and perspectives gave me feedback that allowed me to write in such a way that any reader could understand the background of my topic, the reason I sought to undertake my research, the methodology I used, and my key, relevant findings. I needed to make sure that I not only answered the questions that had driven my research, but also had a strong focus on the most interesting aspects of my findings.

As I wrote this essay, my target audiences were both students and mentors. When I refer to mentors I include peers, friends, advisors, teachers, and professors. With my experience mentoring students, and as a pre-medical student myself, I valued understanding the effects of AP Biology and AP Chemistry courses on the pre-medical preparation in college. I think many times students enroll in courses, and even go on specific paths, simply because everyone says it is what they should be doing to get into medical school. But it is important to stop and think about whether it is actually

beneficial to you and to those around you. This becomes a complex topic because something that might be beneficial to one individual might not be as beneficial to someone else. As seen in my findings, a person's background and educational environment play significant roles on the effectiveness AP courses have on pre-medical college readiness. I am excited to have opened up a new discussion and have had the chance to target minority students—a group who had not been studied in-depth regarding pre-medical preparation from high school to college. I hope this research will inspire others to continue discovering knowledge on this topic in efforts to guide minority students more appropriately and provide them with the best advice as they prepare for medical school.