

Dear VFW,

My name is Jeffrey Palmer and I am a teacher of middle level humanities at Vermont's Troy School, honored to be applying for the National Citizenship Education Teacher Award. Born and raised in our nation's capitol until early adulthood, I was exposed early on to the complex and beautiful workings of American democracy, marvelled at the grand edifices of governmental buildings on my way to and from Georgetown's Holy Trinity School, and there made childhood friends of the children of diverse diplomatic envoys to, what they themselves professed to be, "the greatest country on Earth". It was through these early interactions with foreign families who revered America, as much as my own birthright, which so early instilled in me a sense of civic pride and patriotic reverence.

While my education and subsequent teaching career are a matter of public record (neither particularly impressive nor unique) and are recounted below, I wish to bypass those details and strike to the heart of what matters to me as a native of Washington D.C. turned rural VT educator. Having experienced both sides of American life- from the polished and worldly to the proud and provincial- I have grown greatly in humility and perspective these past eight years and wish to pass on my understandings of what makes this country so great to my students. My heartfelt desire is to bridge these two worlds, often misconstrued as an unreconcilable divide in urban and rural sensibilities, and elevate in my students what is quintessentially American. These extend far above and beyond stereotypes of social status, wealth, and educational attainment. I want to remind each of my students that each of them matters as much to the fabric of American society as any other citizen, that patriotism transcends mere pride of origin and grows deeper in the light of worldliness, compassion, and shared vision.

#### Jeffrey Palmer Resume

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#### OBJECTIVE

N/A.

#### EDUCATION

M.A. in English, May 2016

The University of Vermont

Bachelor of Arts, May 2012

The University of Tampa

Major: Writing Minor: English

- GPA 3.5/4.0
- Dean's Scholarship (all 8 semesters)
- Writing Scholarship (all 8 semesters)

#### WORK HISTORY

Humanities Chair- Troy School in North Troy, VT 2019-present

Humanities Teacher- East Meadow School in Morrisville, VT 2017-2019

Content Writer for Schlager Group (remote) 2015-2018

T.A.P.S Burlington, VT

B.H.S Intern January 2015 - May 2017

Experiencing firsthand all the duties of the teaching profession, managing classes, and temporarily acting as primary teacher during solo period

Kelly Services Burlington, VT

Substitute teacher 2014 through present

Filling teaching vacancies across Burlington ranging from kindergarten to high school

Media Best Interactive Tampa, FL

Intern January 2012 through May 2012

Researching and writing blog articles and editing work of other contributing writers for online publication

Respondez Honors Journal Tampa, FL

Editor Fall 2011 through May 2012

- Meticulously proofreading lengthy academic papers for prestigious publication
- Conducting research for purposes of fact checking
- Properly reformatting and citing student submissions

The Minaret Newspaper Tampa, FL

Staff Reporter Fall 2008 through Spring 2011

- Researching assorted subject matters
- Interviewing students, school staff and community members
- Writing articles for The University of Tampa's school newspaper. The Minaret has received numerous awards, including Florida's Best College Newspaper.

#### LANGUAGES STUDIED

- Languages: French, Latin, German, Italian (listed in order of mastery)

#### SPECIAL EXPERIENCES AND HONORS

- Chosen from entire school to attend New England Young Writers Conference at Middlebury College
  - Participated in establishing UT's inaugural mfa program in creative writing by assisting in administrative duties, taking notes on the proceedings, and evaluating the program's overall success
  - Was selected for, and attended the 2013 Disquiet International Writing Festival in Lisbon, Portugal
- Became published writer of material for Schlager Group and their "For Students" publication series: editor Sarah Robertson as potential reference sarah@schlagergroup.com