Good evening my name is Jacqueline Garza. I am an 8th grade student at Montgomery Middle School. Montgomery Intersession Academy is a collaborative program between the University of San Diego, Bayside Community Center, Montgomery Middle School and the Mission Valley YMCA designed to help students not doing very well academically get excited about learning and gain extra credit over school breaks. My first time going to MIA I was invited because I had two F's, one being in English. We only went for one week over winter break. We took pictures and wrote an essay about what we liked to do around the Linda Vista Community. The YMCA and USD staff helped me perfect my grammar, punctuation, and organize my essay.

The essays we all wrote at Bayside were put in an essay competition designed for all students in the Linda Vista community. The essay was about why we thought our community was beautiful. Although I was not doing well academically in English, I won 2nd place. I received awards from: The California Legislature signed by 'Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D.' , The City Of San Diego Signed by 'Scott Sherman', Supervisor 'Rob Roberts', and last but defiantly not least the United States Congress signed by 'Susan Davis'. I felt successful.
The second time I attended MIA was because I wanted to participate again. During spring break we went for one month. We took pictures and wrote a small essay about where we wanted to be in six years. We also learned and built an Aquaponics System in the community garden at Bayside; it has tilapia fish. We also built a fuse glass beads to decorate the benches in the community garden. The YMCA and USD staff took us to field trips every Friday to different places like: the beach, USD, Kearny, and Camp Oliver. At Kearny High School we learned more about the Aquaphonics System. At the beach we had an ice cream and chocolate fight, we walked by the side of the ocean, laughing and talk to one another. When we where at USD we made a banner for when we walked in the Linda Vista Multicultural Fair. When we visited Camp Oliver we shot a bow and arrow, hiked, and made our own natural ordainments. In the Multicultural Fair we had our own booth and talked to the community about the Montgomery Intersession Academy, like I am talking to you all today.

Being in the MIA program has not only made me a better writer and better photographer, but a better person. Now I am able to speak in front of an audience, not feeling scared, but confident. Since leaving MIA I have also spoken with my English teacher and worked out a way between the two of us to speak more politely to one another, in order to help me focus on
keeping my grade up in her class. I would like to thank the Montgomery Intersession Academy partners including Bayside, the YMCA, the University of San Diego and all of the community partners that helped us with all of the activities. Hopefully this program will continue to grow and can possible run during the summer in the future. Thank you for your time this evening, I hope you enjoy our photography.