

Mr. Admissions Officer
Northeast Regional Admission Representative
Williams College Office of Admission
Bascom House
33 Stetson Court
Williamstown, MA 01267

April 15, 2010

Dear Mr. Admissions Officer:

Recently, I received a letter from your office offering me a place on the waitlist for the Class of 2011, and I appreciate the opportunity to still be considered for admission to Williams. After visiting 22 different schools and thinking at length about what I want from the next four years of my education, there is no doubt in my mind that I want to be a purple cow.

What makes me want to be a purple cow? The common *Bos taurus* can be viewed in any season peppering the fields of the US countryside, yet never to my knowledge has there been a recorded sighting of a cow sporting purple and yellow hair. Surely, there could not be a better mascot for Williams, a traditional institution with an edge. Each time I have visited Williams, I found that it is very in-touch with its old New England roots, yet it also has a number of characteristics that sets it apart from other schools. The tutorials program which is based on the old teaching methods of Oxford and Cambridge lends an escape from traditional classroom learning. Super Stress-Busters and Mountain Day also introduce fun into the traditionally intense academic atmosphere, and a wide array of student media prove that no matter what their history may be, Williams students are not afraid to speak their minds.

I know that I belong at Williams because I, like the purple cow, combine the customary and the unconventional. This stems from my upbringing, which took place in both a rural town in Connecticut and in the eclectic city of New York. Norfolk provided a traditional northeastern lifestyle, whereas New York has exposed me to more progressive thought and a more diverse range of people. While I attend a traditional all-girls private school, I have found my creative outlet in the school's opinion magazine, **spark*. My co-head and I have decided to take the magazine to the next level this year, for we are publishing an unprecedented four issues. I have also been elected by my classmates to be my speaker at graduation, an honor that caps off four very memorable and rewarding years at Spence.

I was drawn to Williams because of its intense academics and its close-knit community. What I bring to the community are my passions for writing, art, journalism, and a desire to work on social and political issues. My classmates at Williams would be intellectual, critical thinkers, and I would enjoy the challenge of collaborating and debating with them in class and in the dining hall. The tutorials will challenge me and prepare me for the further education I plan to pursue after college. Work on *The Williams Record*, *Scattershot*, or the *International Justice Journal* will satisfy my thirst for journalism, and will prepare me for possible journalistic endeavors after Williams.

Williams will give me all that I want from a college, and therefore I would be "over the moon" to be a member of the Class of 2011. Now, can your cow do that?

Sincerely,

Susie Waite List