



# MARIA LARA

SELF-DIRECTED LEARNER

## About Me

My name is Maria Lara. I am an 18-year-old junior at Norwalk High School. I was born in Colombia and moved to the United States when I was 16. I enjoy studying and learning new things. It is interesting, stimulating, and productive. It also makes me feel proud and useful when I can help someone who doesn't understand something. I'm part of the Student Council and my school's cross country team. In my free time, I enjoy listening to music, working out, traveling, watching series and movies, and trying new recipes. I consider myself a cheerful, kind, social, optimistic, and empathetic person who loves people and nature. That's why I aspire to study science, work at a zoo, and make a positive impact on the environment in the future.

## I am a Self-Directed Learner

As a student from another country who never took a formal English course and whose family does not speak English, I taught myself the language by reading free online lessons, using Duolingo, watching YouTube lessons, and watching Netflix in English to improve my listening skills. Now, I can read, write, and communicate with my American friends, teachers, and other people in this country. I still have a lot to learn, but I know that by practicing every day and overcoming my fear of speaking English with others, I will improve little by little. Besides improving my English, my goal this year is to achieve a high SAT score, which is why I regularly study on my own using Khan Academy. I know I can reach my goals by setting daily objectives, focusing intensely while studying, and being disciplined.

**"If you can't fly, then run; if you can't run, then walk; if you can't walk, then crawl, but whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward."**

**-Dr. Martin Luther King**

**475**

**Longest Duolingo  
streak in English**

**1190**

**Last PSAT  
score**

**3.9**

**GPA**

**2**

**Languages  
I speak**