

## Read Keely Peterson's Essay

**To Do or Not To Do** This school year, I am the Student Body President (SBP) of Foothill High School. It has been a great challenge and a great blessing, and I am very grateful for the many experiences this position has graced me with. As SBP, I have many responsibilities: I am fully in charge of our leadership class, I plan the majority of the events that take place at our school, I am the student-teacher communication medium, and I am responsible for attending various meetings and other events for the Nevada Association of Student Councils (NASC). Our school does not have a first vice president this year, so I had to take on the responsibilities of that position as well as my own responsibilities for my position. To be frank, I am doing two jobs instead of just my one. I also am the president of our Advanced Placement club (AP club) this year and run the meetings and organize events for that, am taking two AP classes this year, and I have a full schedule of six classes. Needless to say, I am a very busy high school student with little extra time, and lots of stress. Running the Senior class and its events are not my job; those responsibilities are under a whole different title and position: the Senior Class President (of which I am not). To put it nicely, our current Senior Class President (SCP) does not do her job. So, consequently, I often pick up her responsibilities and end up doing her job; which does not bode well for my sanity nor my stress levels. During the first week of school, we had our annual Senior Sunrise event on the Friday of that week and the following week was also our Welcome Back week complete with a pep-rally at both lunches. I was only supposed to be in charge of one of these events, the Welcome back week. But of course, I became the front-running-man on both events since our SCP did not plan her event as she should have. I had to then decide if I would plan the senior event and also plan my own event or if I should let the first senior event of the year crash and burn. I immediately decided to take on both responsibilities and get everything done for both Senior Sunrise and Welcome Back Week the following week. I do not like to let people down and consequently end up taking on extra responsibilities in order to get everything done that I feel needs to be accomplished. Deciding to take responsibility for both events caused me a lot of stress and worry. I seemed to be the only person that cared about accomplishing all the tasks at hand and the only one willing to do so. I felt completely alone, it was awful. I spent many more hours at school than I normally would have and spent even more outside of school searching for donations. But I got everything done that needed to get done, and both of the events were successful. After those crazy first two weeks of school, I decided there needed to be some sort of change so that I no longer felt like I was on my own against the world. I spoke with my student council advisor and my principal and they reprimanded the SCP and agreed to help alleviate some of my stress and responsibilities. I now am functioning as I should without the added stress of an extra position. I would have been able to do so without experiencing the adversity I did right off the bat into the school year.