

Successful application to Yale University G.D.S.



Planned Major

Computer Science

Admission

Single Choice Early
Action

Application
Year

2020

4

Honors & Awards

10

Extracurriculars



Academics



SAT:

- Math (760)
- Reading and Writing (750)



Honors & Awards



Gold Medal Astronomy Olympiad

National

Gold Medal Physics Olympiad of
Public Schools

National

Silver Medal Astronomy Olympiad

National

Honorable Mention Mathematical
Olympiad for Public/Private
Schools

National



Co-founder & Head of Product, Online Student Platform

Computer/Technology

5 hr/wk

Online platform to highlight students' stories; conceptualized & improving UI/UX design; managing 3 programmers; editing 9 podcasts

Founder, Advanced Physics Training Group

Science/Math

4 hr/wk

Taught 80 students who broke record of academic Olympiad medals in school; gave 26 lectures; created 10-page documents of class summaries & exercises

Participant, Entrepreneurship Summer Program

Other Club/Activity

112 hr/wk

Conceptualized & prototyped smartband for people w/ panic disorder; conducted market research w/ 281 ppl; devised business plan; pitched to 8 investors

Founder, Student Achievement Organization

Other Club/Activity

4 hr/wk

National organisation to celebrate school students' achievements; interviewed 5 people, composed 76 news articles, created 4 videos w/ 228k views

Author, Physics Study Guide

Science/Math

1 hr/wk

Spent two years compiling strategies to approach the study of physics; wrote a 50-page study guide; released ebook for free; reached 3000+ downloads

Volunteer Staff, Regional Leadership Academy

Other Club/Activity

116 hr/wk

Mentored 32 young regional leaders; created content on social media about Bootcamp; Invited to attend a flagship academy summer camp in 2020

Vice President, Student Council

Student Government/Politics

14 hr/wk

Expanded 5 scientific Olympiads, planted 13 trees around campus, arranged 6 social events and 5 sports tournaments; consolidated 3 students clubs

Writer, Science Website

Science/Math

2 hr/wk

The largest website for scientific dissemination in the region. Wrote 11 articles; created content on social media that reached >1 million people

Summer Student, Local University

Science/Math

85 hr/wk

Studied Chemical Engineering; won popsicle stick bridge challenge posed by teachers; later mentored 12 students to attend the program

Participant, Regional Leadership Academy

Other Club/Activity

116 hr/wk

Week-long Bootcamp on leadership, social innovation, self-knowledge, networking, and storytelling. Met 29 other students engaged in regional leadership



Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.

The *soccer nation* never fit me.

However, as a 13-year-old boy in a public middle school, I had no choice: soccer was the only option during Wednesdays' PE class. One day, someone passed me the ball, but instead of trapping it with my foot, I accidentally kicked it into my own goal. From then on, I was benched continuously.

Exhausted by the mind-numbing activity of watching a ball bounce from side to side, I pulled a book from my mother's bedroom shelf that had only served as decoration. Its cover said, *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*. Not surprisingly, I could barely understand it. Studying in a small place at the heart of the forest had provided little preparation for understanding Nietzsche's thoughts. Nevertheless, it kept me distracted.

Yet, I was not alone: six feet to my left, my instructor Falcão could be seen at an old school desk silently reading. He looked like a stereotypical PE teacher: a bald, mustached, middle-aged man wearing rimless rectangular glasses. That was where the similarities stopped, though. He rarely interfered in classes, except for when students started to fight.

Noticing my book's cover, he enthusiastically engaged in a conversation on the topic. After I told him I could not understand much, he started to explain it to me vividly. "Seed needs to die so that trees are born". By that, he illustrated one's desire to become Nietzsche's superman. Then, he pointed out how, just like the superman superseded the ordinary human, our universe was destined to "kill" its initial structure to become what it is today. Through this imagery, he showcased his talent for bringing unrelated topics together.

By the end of the class, my instructor made me a proposal. He worked at a high school that was about to throw away dozens of textbooks. Knowing my passion for learning, he asked me if I wanted some. I accepted.

The next Wednesday, I came to class with an empty backpack. From the trunk of his car, I collected 14 books of different thicknesses. Soon, my bag morphed into a cube, which provoked frowning faces from the bus passengers on the way back home.

When I got there, I unloaded my backpack on my bed and thumbed through the books. In one of them, a figure of a fire explosion caught my eye. Though I read the page multiple times, I could not understand the cryptic symbols. So, I decided to go to the first chapter, "Introduction to Chemistry." In the first ten pages, I discovered that we were all made of small particles called "atoms." In the next 47 pages, I learned that these "atoms" could bond in particular patterns to form other things called "molecules." By the time I got to page 129, I had already discovered that these "molecules" could combine themselves to form even more complex structures, represented in those cryptic symbols now known as "chemical reactions."

From then on, our Wednesdays would revolve around my learnings. Though Falcão had no background in chemistry, he would always listen attentively to my weekly discoveries. Every time I went too abstract in my explanations, he would pull me back and demand a vivid example, pushing my imagination to as far as a quasi-sensorial experience. Many times, I resorted to the white wall behind us. One day, I would describe it as a set of photons bouncing back to our eyes. On another, I would frame it as a set of calcium compounds held together in solid-state.

With those conversations, Falcão was not trying to make me see the value in the learning process, but within myself. By embracing knowledge as a personal experience, I forbade myself from curbing my imagination. Hence, I allowed myself to be absorbed by his universe.

Slowly, I was turning myself into Falcão — and I was determined to be him to the rest of the world.