Participating in the Student Social Workers Association (SSWA) has been one of the many journeys that have aided in my studies as a social worker. I am forever grateful for the opportunities SSWA has added to my life, personally and professionally. My interactions with SSWA produced principles that I can incorporate them in my daily living. In addition, the principles constructed through the leadership of SSWA will be applicable in my future career as a social worker.

Working with others in the SSWA was not always an easy task. In the beginning of the semester my colleagues and I had a list expectations of what we aspired to undertake. However, as the semester progressed we discovered that some of our most passionate goals were not going to be conquered. At the initial impact of disappointment we perceived our inabilities to perform as a failure. But, after evaluation our perspectives changed. We sought solutions, rather than conflict. Acknowledgement of our limitations helped us to see undesirable successes as a learning experience. We concluded that by doing our best and focusing on our strengths obtainable outcomes are affordable. In all retrospect, quality is much better than quantity

Self-awareness was a vital tool in collaboration with my peers in SSWA. Becoming conscious of my assertive demeanor relieved me of making impulse decisions. Remaining humble and tolerant of diverse opinions and attitudes offered me the abilities to grasp various viewpoints. In situations where I totally opposed a particular idea I was able to maintain respect for the objectives. In fact, the concepts that I may predict to be invalid may be the superlative decree for the group, in its entirety. The beauty of subsiding in harmony contributes to the aspect of my evolving obtainment of knowledge. Information that was not valuable to me once before become of great importance now and forthcoming.

SSWA has taught me to look beyond the personality and see the individual for whom they are. Everyone has a purpose. The truth of the matter is, we are all trying to find our place in society regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, class, disability, nationality, religion, and etc. Discrimination and prejudices of these stances outrage me. My assertive posture can be an asset in counteracting these injustices. As a future social work advocating for the voiceless is a lifestyle, not a chore. After all, I can learn from anyone; whether it is something I want to possess or something I want to refrain from.

Everyone is SSWA has a vital role in the effectiveness of the group. My personal role of developing schemes and plans expanded my growth tremendously. Setting aside stresses of everyday life to help someone else enriched my life. The reward that I felt inwardly far exceeds the work that our accomplishments demanded. Together our functions solidify unity. Hope happens when two or more can strive to influence change. SSWA does together what seems impossible to do alone.