

I recall seeing my mother and father in a crowd of 5000 people suspended upside down with their hands stretched above their heads reaching what appeared to be downward, towards the bright blue sky. I had visualized this exact scene many times. This time it was for real. I was smack in the middle of a very difficult snowboarding trick, entitled the Mc Twist 540, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I had visualized the ramp, the pipe, the path along the pipe, many times during my waking hours. During my sleep, during my practice. Visualizing had allowed me to correct some mistakes before I actually made them. The training had proven successful, visualization was one thing, mental preparation for the real event. In addition it took years of determination, perseverance, daily hard work, and after a full day then attempting to find sponsors to believe in both me and my potential. T [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] As I had to earn my own way, sometimes only a couple of rubles at a time, I set aside my aches and pains but visualized the spectators upside down as I performed a first of many body flips, and drove on... I now sit here at the [REDACTED] in Paris, where I am currently an intern visualizing myself sitting in an amphitheater surrounded by a bouillabaisse of talented students from many countries listening to lectures by some of Harvard's greatest legal minds. I can hear the clicks of the laptop keyboards as my fellow Harvard students refuse to look up at the professor as it may cause them to mistakenly hit the wrong key while copying notes.

While traveling to foreign countries for training and competitions, I tried to visualize what it would be like to live in a foreign country. Then at the age of 16, I won a scholarship competition and was awarded a participation in a one-year exchange program in France. My experience in France was the first time I had to not only compete, but I had to do so in a language that was almost orthogonal to my native Russian. Now in addition to French and Russian I am also fluent in English and Norwegian.

If I push hard on the envelope of my future images I can see myself, nodding and sitting with world leaders, sitting on panels and international symposiums and maybe even signing a meaningful peace

agreement. , I take the floor to speak against a UN Afghanistan Resolution help generate approvals for the new international aid program in Western Sahara. The clarity of my image allows me to, hear myself debating on a complex international topic, and finding myself lost, I attempt to switch languages in order to confuse my opponent.

In [REDACTED] motivated mainly by my interest in international affairs and in public speaking, I was accepted by the University of Paris I, Sorbonne to study law.. I remember that very first day when we were told though we were now 2000 students , we should be aware that at the end of the first year only 300 were expected to graduate ., again , I closed my eyes and began to visualize myself as one of those lucky 300.

I am currently an active participant of the Model United Nations (MUN) and debates. I have organized MUN events in Moscow and also [REDACTED], raising funds to enable participation in events abroad. Besides enhancement of leadership skills, debating at the MUN encourages conflict resolution, teamwork, and negotiation that are necessary for the future success in an international career. I admire the United Nations activities in general: through cooperation and diplomacy they promote peace in the world. I aspire to work for the UN one day and to become its Secretary-General. The more I visualize myself at the United Nations the more I believe that I can do it and the more I act towards my goal. I begin to do a thousand little things differently: I talk to people I would normally avoid or I ask questions I would have been too shy to ask. Often I visualize myself looking down from the UN bench on the diplomats negotiating the world issues or giving a speech on cooperation of Russia with the United States of America. I imagine delegates cheering me as I walk up the podium to take the floor...

I recall the World Harvard Model UN which took place in The Hague in [REDACTED] This summit inspired me to work even harder at my French Law School and to pursue studies at HLS. I was in Cambridge this summer to visit Harvard and I fell in love with this town and atmosphere. I believe studying law in

America after having studied French and International law from the French perspective would be a unique opportunity for me to compare and contrast two different legal systems. I'm particularly attracted to the more personalized educational approach offered by HLS. I believe Harvard would equip me with a broad international perspective, a key attribute for a career in the UN. After completing my Juris Doctor studies, I aspire to pass the California bar exam and initially work in arbitration to gain experience before joining the UN.

At this juncture in my life, I am a trainee lawyer at [REDACTED] in Paris. While working here 12 hours a day, I know that it is just another step before studying at HLS. In the people I work with I can read a sense of confidence, commitment and raw-energy I want to participate in. This work experience gives me insight into the day-to-day life of a lawyer, the opportunity to draft due diligence reports, attend hearings and respond to conclusions. I am particularly drawn to the challenges I find at the intersection of International business law and arbitration. I have a genuine interest that has developed into an enthusiasm to pursue this career path, an enthusiasm that has only increased in my years of study and real world experience at [REDACTED]. Coupled with my hard work ethic, I believe this makes me an excellent candidate for the HLS classroom, my desired next step to becoming a successful lawyer.

Now I am practicing another visualization. This time I am standing on the stage, being handed my Law diploma, by the Dean, I can see and hear the Dean congratulating me, I look over again, and see my mother and father and other spectators, reaching their hands towards the sky, However this time they are all right side up.